











# LEOMINSTER

MASSACHUSETTS

## HISTORICAL AND

## PICTURESQUE

BY WILLIAM A. EMERSON

*AUTHOR OF EMERSON'S HAND-BOOK OF WOOD ENGRAVING—  
HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF DOUGLAS, MASSACHUSETTS—  
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS, PAST AND PRESENT.*

ILLUSTRATED

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## PREFACE.

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Those who have never written or assisted in writing a historical work of any kind are not aware of the variety and amount of labor involved. In collecting the material for this volume the town and Church records, the Public Library and Museum, the files of the "Leominster Enterprise" and previous publications of a historical nature have been placed under contribution for all they contained to throw light upon the early history of the town. In addition to their acknowledgement I would also refer to Rev. J. D. Miller, to whom I am indebted for the preparation of the entire Educational and the greater portion of the Manufacturing Chapters ; to Hon. A. A. Burrage, James T. Joslin, Esq., Mrs. Clara A. Carter, and Albert G. Morse for valuable genealogical data, and to many others who have in various ways contributed to lighten my labors. The people of Leominster have given the work their cordial sympathy and support, without which it certainly could not have reached its present attractive form and ample proportions, for this and the unusually courteous treatment received I desire to express my personal thanks beyond the conventional forms of acknowledgement. The work is also largely indebted for its permanent value to the cheerful and ready assistance of Charles A. Joslin, town clerk, in examining the records and in correcting and verifying facts and dates.

In conclusion, I would say the publishers have accorded me the fullest liberty and, as a proper recognition of the fact, I assume responsibility for all errors and imperfections which appear in the following pages.

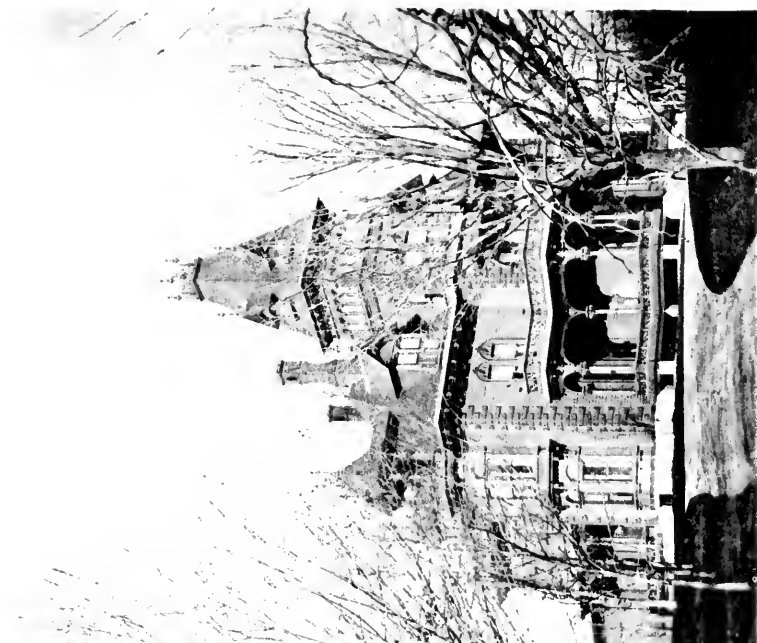
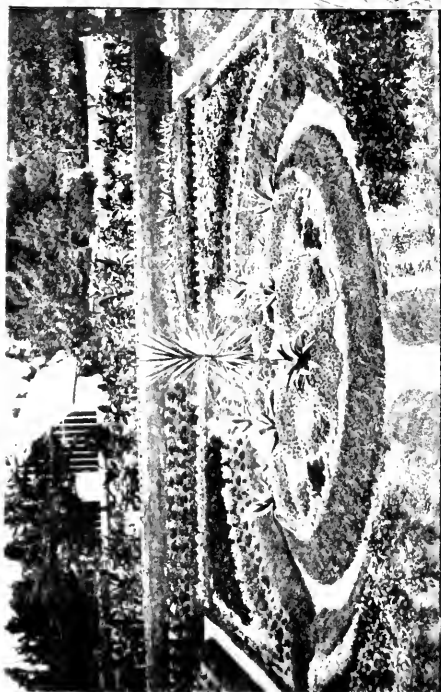
WILLIAM A. EMERSON.

## ERRATA.

- PAGE 22. Eighth line word "furniture" omitted.
- PAGE 26. Fourth line for "1857" read : 1757.
- PAGE 84. In eighth line instead of "Rev. Thomas Gardner" read :  
Rev. Francis Gardner.
- PAGE 96. After "Roll of Honor Front Tablet," read : All whose names  
are inscribed on this tablet were members of the 15th Mass. Regiment.
- PAGE 107. In sketch of Col. George C. Joslin, eighth line from foot for  
"Charlestown" read: Charleston. Seventh line from foot instead of "upon be-  
ing exchanged returned to his regiment" read: Col. Joslin was captured by the  
enemy late in the year 1863 and released in August, 1864. His regiment com-  
pleted their three years' term and were mustered out of service the previous  
month (July, 1864.) which caused his retirement from the army and return to  
civil life.
- PAGE 130. Sixth line from foot for "veteran" read : vatman.
- PAGE 137. Seventh line for "Treasurer" read : Selectman.
- PAGE 145. Tenth line from foot for "now owned" read : afterwards  
owned.
- PAGE 149. Eighth line for "Emory" read : Emery.
- PAGE 167. Fifth line from foot for "John the second son" read : John  
the first son.
- PAGE 168. In sketch of A. A. Burrage, seventh line from foot, after  
"Boston" read : and two years, 1878 and 1879, in the Massachusetts Senate.
- PAGE 169. After the seventh line the following sketch of Charles Henry  
Burrage should appear: Charles Henry, the thirteenth and youngest child of the  
family, and one of the three surviving children. He remained at home working  
on the farm and attending the public school until eighteen years of age. He  
then studied one term each at the academies of Newton and Lunenburg and at  
nineteen followed his brothers to Boston and entered upon a mercantile life in  
the store of Richardson, Burrage & Co. He afterwards went with Wilkinson,  
Stetson & Co., and Newton, Eaton & Co., and in 1853 became a partner in the  
firm of Hill, Burrage & Co., subsequently continuing in the firm of Burrage  
Bros. & Co., and in 1873 in the firm of Burrage, Cole & Tucker, now Burrage,  
Cole & Co. Mr. Burrage is the only one of the six brothers who went to Bos-  
ton to live that remains in active business.
- PAGE 213. Last line for "Conway, N. H.," read : Conway, Mass.
- PAGE 223. Thirteenth line instead of "purchasing his present business  
of George A. Bishop & Co.," read : Engaged in business, occupying the old  
stand of G. A. Bishop & Co.
- PAGE 247. Fifth and sixth lines from foot, should come at foot of the  
page and read: Last Sept. he (M. F. Morse instead of P. F. Lane,) bought out  
the Fitchburg Spirit Level Co.
- PAGE 254. Third line from foot for "J. C. Anthony" read : J. S.  
Anthony.
- PAGE 314. Sixteenth line instead of "1851" read : 1861.
- PAGE 319. Five lines from foot for "Loren" read : Loring.
- Add to list of portraits James M. Bronson, page 84.

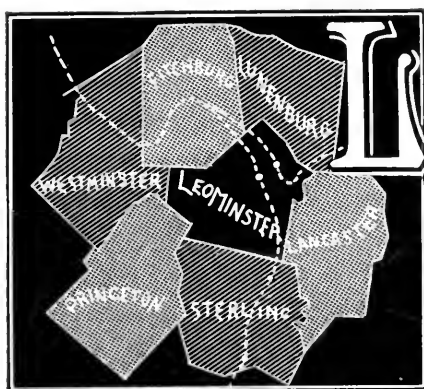






## CHAPTER I.

### DESCRIPTIVE.



LEOMINSTER is situated in the northeastern part of Worcester County, Massachusetts, on the line of the Old Colony and Fitchburg railroads, five miles southeast from Fitchburg; twenty miles north from Worcester and forty-six miles north-

west from Boston, via the Fitchburg railway, and fifty-three by the Old Colony. The township is irregular in form, with an area of about twenty-nine square miles. It is bounded north-erly by Fitchburg and Lunenburg, easterly by Lunenburg and Lancaster, southerly by Lancaster, Sterling and Princeton, and westerly by Princeton, Westminster and Fitchburg. The sur-face in the northern and western parts is uneven and undulating. The hills are an even dozen in number, and are each distinct and separate. "North Monoosnock," "Bigelow," "Carter," "Nichols," and "Houghton," in the northern part, "South Monoosnock," "Sheldon," "Gardner," "Baberry," and "Long" in the central, and "Rocky," "Bee," or "Legate" in the south-

ern. Seven out of the twelve have good roads over them and are easily accessible for agricultural purposes.

The other hills are in some parts high and steep, especially North and South Monoosnock, and furnish very little of value except wood and granite; other portions of these five hills are, however, accessible, and furnish excellent mowing land and pasturage.

South Monoosnock, the highest point of land in town, has an elevation of 1020 feet above sea level, and about 600 feet above the common at Monument Square. The village of Leominster with this rugged hill scenery for a background, and old Monoosnock towering above his fellows, presents a picture of rare beauty.

The southerly part of the town is principally plain and level land, light and sandy, and not suitable for grass, although there is some very good farming land in this section. The eastern part, through which the Nashua river passes, has extensive plains and intervalles, producing grass in abundance without cultivation. Previous to 1838 there were no natural ponds wholly within the limits of Leominster. It included a small portion of White's pond on the east, and a corner of Chualoom on the northeast, but by the annexation of No-town the whole of Rocky Pond was brought within the town limits.

The north branch of the Nashua river, originally called the North river, after the union of the several branches whose sources are in Ashburnham and Westminster, runs through the center of Fitchburg and enters the town from the north, is soon after joined by Baker's Brook, proceeding through the North Village, and in a southeasterly direction, is joined by Monoosnock and Falls brooks, enters the town of Lancaster about a mile south of White's Pond, thence easterly and southerly uniting with the true Nashua about a mile south of the Lancaster meeting house and forming what was formerly the

Penecook, but now the Nashua, they pass off together and unite with the Merrimack at Nashua in New Hampshire. This river takes a serpentine course in Leominster, through a wide and comparatively level valley. The Hon. Charles H. Merriam, in his excellent Sketch of Leominster, in the Worcester County History says "The valley of this stream for a considerable part of the distance in Leominster is bordered on its southerly side by high, steep banks, which appear to have been made by the wearing away of the deep, loose, gravelly formation by the action of water in the time of freshets during the long ages it has been working. Some of these banks are as much as seventy-five feet high and are carved out as if done by the hand of art, leaving wide tracts of rich, level grass land, renewed from year to year by the overflow. The 'Sear' at the turn on Main street, near the North Village, is a sample of this working. The river, at some places, is still busily wearing away these formations bringing down the trees with giant power and enlarging the area over which, in spring, it roams at will, fertilizing and making productive its domain. Nothing could be more grand than the thought of this silent but stupendous work, or more lovely than these dales in Summer." Monoosnock Brook is the next stream of importance, dividing the town nearly in the centre. It has its rise in "Rocky Pond," in Leominster, flows northerly through the Leominster Reservoir, and through the southerly part of Fitchburg and back into Leominster, passing in a circuitous course, through the center to the Nashua below North Leominster. Its tributaries are Morse, Slack, Haynes' and Quarter-of-a-mile Brooks. "Fall Brook" in the southerly part of the town is the next largest.



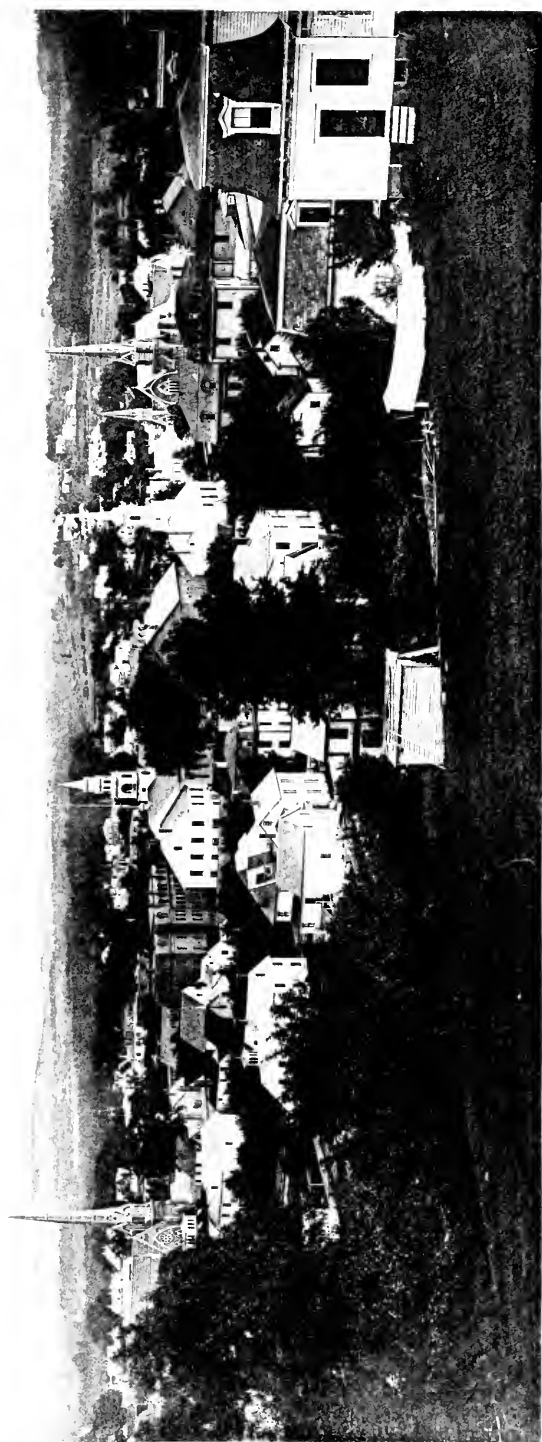


"Bartlett Brook" next, in the southwesterly part and Chualoom Brook in the easterly part ; there are several other brooks in different parts of the town of lesser magnitude. Leominster, with all these natural features of hills, dales and streams within its borders, is in itself picturesque, and the surrounding scenery is noticeable for its quiet beauty.

There are few towns so favored with pleasant and attractive country drives or whose inhabitants seem to appreciate them more. The number of fine horses owned in town is unusually large and the streets and roads are kept in admirable condition. Next to a neat and attractive residence, with well kept grounds, the Leominster man prizes his "team," and well he may with such opportunity to enjoy it.

It has been remarked by one who has visited here, that "The average citizen is fond of that which it was not possible for his ancestors to obtain—comfort, and is not averse to adopting those things that ordinarily come under the head of modern improvements, whether intended to benefit the individual or the public. In town affairs particularly, he does not mean that it shall lack any of those appointments and conveniences that indicate progress, not that the characteristic feature of the place is merely a spirit of enterprise, but a local pride which aims at the best ; for instance, the town wanted gas, and the whole amount of stock was taken on the street within thirty-six hours. It wanted water, and its water bonds to the sum of \$150,000 were sold at a price and with a readiness which betokened the high character of Leominster credit." I think we may truthfully add to this one other feature just as expressive of the true character of the people, and that is their interest in culture ; intellectual, religious and social. They have an exceptionally large and well selected public library, containing, as it does, 10,000 volumes. The privileges of the library are free to all. The reading room is well supplied with the current





LEOMINSTER FROM INTERSECTION OF GROVE AVE. AND WALNUT STREET

newspapers and periodicals, and not the least interesting and creditable feature of the institution is the museum. The Public Schools are of the best. A well conducted newspaper is generously supported, and the six churches, of different denominations, are in a flourishing condition. The social qualities of the people find expression in the large number of societies and associations.

Some of the peculiar features of the place are the nicely constructed and well kept sidewalks, the prompt and efficient police force, and an excellent Fire Department ; the latter supplemented by a good water supply, with fire hydrants in different parts of the town.

In the matter of Railroads, Leominster has transportation facilities in every direction. Through the centre runs the Old Colony with five trains to Boston and also to the principal cities in Southern Massachusetts. The Fitchburg and Worcester division affording ample means of communication between the shire towns of the county.

Through North Leominster runs the Fitchburg and Hoosac Tunnel lines with eleven trains each day to Boston and direct communication north, via the Cheshire and Central Vermont. Fast through trains are also operated by this line to Chicago, St. Louis and all points West.

The Depot at the Center is an attractive modern structure, and well suited to the requirements of the place. The other principal public buildings are the Town Hall, Allen's, Bank, Fosters', Wood's, Morse's, Cook's Monoosnoek, and Hotel Blocks in the center and Kendall Hall in North Leominster.

Monument Square is located in the heart of the business portion of Leominster and from the enclosure rises the granite shaft that commemorates the valor of the soldiers of the late war. This square is also the converging point of the five principal streets, Main, West, Pleasant, Central and Mechanic. Con-

tiguous to it is the "common" with its walks, its fountains and its well kept lawn. Clustered about the latter and the square are the Town Hall, several churches and the representative business establishments of the town.

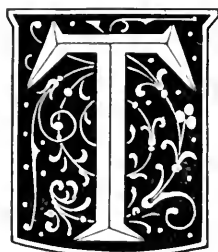
The industries of Leominster are varied, including the manufacture of Horn Combs, Jewelry, Buttons, and a great variety of fancy goods from horn, Children's Carriages, Pianos, Piano Cases, Toys, Leather, Paper, Leatherboard, office Desks, Shirts, Shoes, Linen and Woolens and Machinery.

With such a variety of industries in a town there is very little danger of general depression of business

The place has grown rapidly during the past three or four years and is still growing. New buildings are going up all the time and are occupied as soon as completed. Manufacturers and Merchants are continually extending their resources and it would be impossible to find a community of 7,000 persons more really contented, prosperous and happy.

## CHAPTER II.

### HISTORICAL.



THE Town of Leominster has very little Indian history, although for many years previous to its incorporation the parent town, Lancaster, suffered greatly from Indian depredations.

The whole territory of the town was at one time owned by Sholan, Sachem of the Nashuays, whose headquarters were at Waushacum in Sterling.

Very little is now known of the occupation of the land comprising the town of Leominster by these Indians, the tribe having ceased to exist in an organized form, before the Lancaster New Grant was much settled by the white man, and there is no intimation that the settlers were ever molested; a state of things no doubt resulting from the fact that the courage and spirit of the tribe and its rulers was broken, and also that the land had been purchased of their chief, and paid for to his full satisfaction, thus giving no occasion for disputes or ill feeling.

This first agreement was made in 1701, and the following is a copy of the Indian deed of the new grant, the bargain

with George Tahanto and other Indians, for lands purchased of them.

“ Know all men by these presents, That I, George Tahanto, Indian Sagamore, for and in consideration of what money, namely, twelve pounds, was formerly paid to Sholan, my uncle, sometime Sagamore of Nashuah, for the purchase of said township, and also forty-six shillings formerly paid by Ensigne, John Moore and John Houghton of said Nashuah, to James Wisser, alias Quenepennett, now deceased, but especially, for and in consideration of eighteen pounds, paid part, and the rest secured to be paid, by John Houghton and Nathaniel Wilder, their heirs, executors and assigns forever, a certain tract of land on the west side of the westward line of Nashuah township, adjoining to said line, and butts southerly for the most part on Nashuah river, bearing westerly towards Wachusett Hills and runs northerly as far as Nashuah township, and which lands and meadows, be it more or less, to be to the said Insigne, John Moore, John Houghton and Nathaniel Wilder, their heirs and assigns, to have and to hold forever, and I, the said George Tahanto, do hereby promise and engage to procure an order from the honored General Court for their allowance and confirmation of the sale of said lands as aforesaid, and also that I will show and mark out the bounds of said land in convenient time, not exceeding four months, and also to make such deeds and conveyances as may be necessary for the confirmation of the premises, and that also I, the said George Tahanto, do by these presents, fully notify and confirm, all and every, the said township of Nashuah, alias Lancaster, to the Inhabitants and proprietors thereof, according as it was formerly granted to them, or their ancestors, by my uncle Sholan, and laid out to them by Ensign Thomas Noyes, and confirmed by the Hon. General Court. For the performance of all the above said, I, George Tahanto, have set my hand and seal this

twenty-sixth day of June, in the thirteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord, William the Third, over England, &c., King. Anno Domini, 1701.

Signed and sealed in the presence of

JOHN WONSQON,      JOHN AQUITTICUS,      GEORGE TAHANTO,  
his **O** mark,      his **A** mark      his **O** mark,  
PETER PUCKATAUGH, JONATHAN WILDER, MARY AUNSOCAMONG,  
his **P** mark,      her **O** mark,  
JOHN GUILD.

The above is a copy of the deed as it stands on the Proprietor's records. The act of confirmation was passed by the "Great and General Court or assembly for her majesty's province of the Massachusetts Bay, in New England," in 1713, and in February 1814 "a committee was chosen to allot said land in lots of 40 acres to a share of the best land, and 40 acres for a minister in the most convenient place and if they find or know of a convenient place for a clay ground that it be reserved for the whole. All lots not so good in quality to be more in quantity, so as to be equal to 40 acres of the best land. Among the principal proprietors were the Beamans, the Sawyers, the Houghtons, the Osgoods, the Carters, the Joslins, the Whites, and the Wilders.

As early as 1720 Gamaliel Beaman, Samuel Sawyer, Benjamin Houghton, David Osgood and Jonathan Osgood formed a settlement in that part of the grant which is now Sterling.

In 1725 the first actual settlers were Gershom Houghton in the south and soon after James Boutelle in the south-



westerly part of what is now Leominster Gershom Houghton



built his house on the farm now owned by Mr. C. C. Boyden, his wife Tamar carrying in her apron the field stones used in the construction of the chimney. After the death of her husband in 1857 she married Mr. Daniel Knight, and after his death ten years later, erected to their memory the double stone now standing in the northeast corner of the old burying ground. The cellar hole of the Houghton house still remains on Mr. Boyden's farm. Seven years afterward Jonathan White located in the northern part. Soon after Thomas Wilder and Nathaniel Carter and others located in different parts. It would seem that the northern part was not rapidly settled for we find in 1733 there were but five families in that section, but in a few years this number was considerably increased.

As early as 1737 the inhabitants became dissatisfied with their connection with Lancaster and, coming to the conclusion that they could conduct their own Parochial and Town affairs with less inconvenience and expense and that they could and would "Maintain a Godly Minister," they applied to the General Court and after persevering effort succeeded in securing an act of incorporation of the Town of Leominster which was passed on the 23d of June, O. S., 1740, the same as the 4th of July, N. S., and exactly thirty-six years before the birthday of the Nation.

It has been quite conclusively settled that the original proprietors were not the actual settlers of the new grant, but that their sons took up the inheritance of the fathers and entered upon the work of subduing the forest and making homes for themselves. They were doubtless young or middle aged men, intelligent and industrious farmers, and were possessed of the requisite energy which enabled them to succeed in any difficult undertaking.

In the report of the committee sent out to examine the Lancaster "New Grant," it was described as "rocky and moun-





tainous, and poorly accommodated with meadow<sup>6</sup>. This was, however, found to be hardly a fair estimate of the Leominster section, for if we except the small portion which is abrupt and mountainous, and the 2000 acre "No-town" tract added in 1838, the land is, as a rule, very productive, and capable of producing a great variety of crops. It required only the removal of the forests to reveal the rich plains underneath the growth of large white and pitch pines, the true alluvial meadows occupied by the rock maples, the buttinwood and elm, and the rich, strong soil of the uplands covered with oak, chestnut and walnut. On the site of these ancient forests are the flourishing farms of to-day, adapted to the various agricultural and horticultural productions, including all the different kinds of grain, vegetables and fruit. For several years large crops of grain were raised. A considerable portion of the soil was natural to wheat, and wheat flour and Indian meal were raised and taken to the Boston market. Flax was also raised by nearly every farmer in town, and many had flax to sell. The wives and daughters made cloth of it for the family, the latter going into the field to help pull it, and the boys learned to brake and swinge it.

Very little manufacturing was carried on in town previous to the Revolution. The few instances we find on record were as follows: the manufacture of potash, which was undertaken by Thomas Wilder, Esq., one of the first settlers and continued some years afterwards by his son Thomas; Jonas Kendall also manufactured the article, and also pearlsh, for a number of years, and his wife made gingerbread to sell. The first tannery was built by Joshua Smith about this time.

Ebenezer Wilder, of Lancaster, built and owned a grist mill, and Josiah White a saw mill, prior to 1740.

In 1763 Mark Lincoln came to town and set up the business of clothier, constructing a dam and erecting a fulling mill.

where the dressing of home-made cloth was carried on to great perfection.

The comb business, which has since been an important industry in Leominster, was commenced about 1770 by Mr. Obadiah Hills, from Newbury.

The first oil mill in town was erected previous to 1790, probably about 1785. It was owned by Hon. Jonas Kendall, and located on the Monoosnock Brook, near the Fitchburg line.

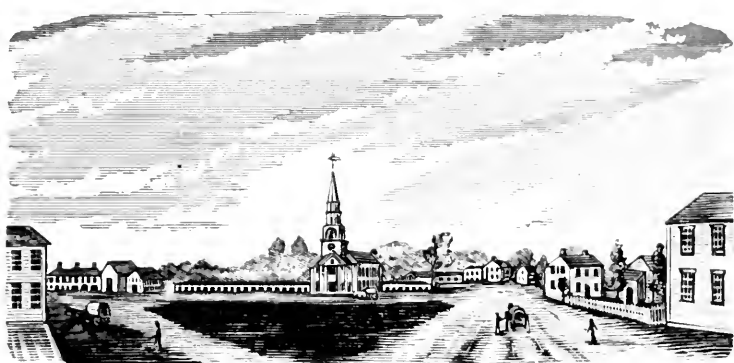
About the year 1787 Mr. Ephraim Eager from Sterling commenced the manufacture of saddles, but failed to carry it on successfully. Asa Kendall, an apprentice of Eager, succeeded his master and met with better success, continuing in business for fifteen years.

The first paper mill was erected by Wm. Nichols and Jonas Kendall in 1796.

Coopering was a profitable business as far back as 1800, many large loads of barrels being sent weekly to the Boston market. A large quantity of bricks were also made at that time. The manufacture of tin ware, stoves, metal pumps, wooden plows, baskets, brooms, straw bonnets and hair sieves was carried on quite extensively, but has since been discontinued. In 1811 Luke Wilder built trip hammer works and for several years made axes, scythes and other edged tools and sent them abroad, in every direction, especially to the West.

In the manufacture of boots and shoes but very little had been done previous to 1800, except custom work. It was not unusual, in the early days of the town, for the village shoemaker, who made and mended the custom shoes, to pack up his "kit" of tools and go from house to house making up the shoes for the entire family for the year. The first regular manufacturer was Joseph Conant, who, in 1810 began the manufacture of ladies morocco shoes, selling something like \$800 worth annually.

The increase in the population of Leominster has been very largely dependent upon the condition of its mechanical industries, there being only a very gradual increase in the number of farm dwellings in the past hundred years. The town has suffered from fires several times, the most destructive of which were the burning of the Union Comb shop, the Steinway Piano Factory, the Harwood Leatherboard Mill, the Lockey Shop, the Hotel and Arlington Piano Factory, etc., (in the great fire of 1873.)



LEOMINSTER CENTER IN 1830. FROM AN OLD PRINT.

The loss occasioned by this latter fire was fully \$100,000.00, and so severely was it felt that the town has not, until within two or three years, entirely recovered from the shock. The following statistics indicate the growth of the town from its settlement down to the present time. In 1725 there were but two families ; in 1733 there were five ; in 1765 the population was 743 ; in 1776, 975 ; in 1790, 1189 ; in 1800, 1486 ; in 1810, 1584 ; in 1820, 1790 ; in 1830, 1861 ; in 1840, 2069 ; in 1850, 3121 ; in 1860, 3522 ; in 1870, 3894 ; in 1875, 5201 ; in 1880, 5772 ; in 1885, 5297 ; in 1888, estimated about 7000.

## CHAPTER III.

### TOWN GOVERNMENT.



MANAGEMENT of Town Affairs is committed to the hands of officers duly chosen. The annual meeting of the town for the election of officers and the transaction of town business is held on the first Monday in April, at which the following named officers are chosen: a Town Clerk and Treasurer, three Selectmen, three Assessors, three Overseers of the Poor, two members of School Committee, two Library Committee, one of Water Board, three of Cemetery Committee, a Highway Surveyor, three Auditors, a Town Agent, four Constables, a Field Driver, three Fence Viewers, a Pound Keeper, nine Surveyors of Lumber, fourteen Measurers of Wood and Bark and three members of Hartwell Smith Fund Committee.

Appointed by the Selectmen: the Engineers of the Fire Department, nine Police Officers, a Keeper of the Lockup, a Probation Officer, Sealer of Weights and Measures, four Registrars of Voters and three Weighers of Merchandise on Town Scales. The School Committee appoint a Superintendent of Schools and two transient officers.

The officers of the town for the present year are as follows:







*Town Clerk and Treasurer*, Charles A. Joslin ; *Selectmen*, Howard M. Lane, Chairman, Charles A. Hunt, George F. Colburn ; *Assessors*, Alanson Richardson, Cephas Derby, Hollis J. Divoll ; *Overseers of the Poor*, Dwight B. Look, John Dickey, Charles F. Boyden ; *School Committee*, E. M. Rockwell, chairman, Joel D. Miller, Henrietta M. Gates, George M. Powers, Charles C. Foster, Francis C. Bowen ; *Library Committee*, Joel D. Miller, Charles C. Foster, James A. Stowell, Ella M. Wilder, I. Freeman Hall, Henrietta M. Gates ; *Water Board*, Hamilton Mayo, chairman, George Hall, Joseph G. Tenney ; *Cemetery Committee*, Benjamin F. Blodgett, Jonas W. Gates, Cornelius A. Whitcomb ; *Highway Surveyors*, H. M. Lane, C. A. Hunt, G. F. Colburn ; *Auditors*, George F. Morse, Hamilton Mayo, Aaron O. Wilder ; *Town Agent*, Alfred L. Burditt ; *Constables*, Willard D. Blanchard, Charles D. Pierce ; *Field Driver*, Frank E. Buss ; *Fence Viewers*, Charles C. Boyden, Isaac Cowdrey, Jonas W. Gates ; *Pound Keeper*, Charles E. Dresser ; *Surveyors of Lumber*, W. G. Derby, Alvin P. Henry, S. A. Meads, George L. Rice, James Skinner, A. E. Lyon, H. L. Hicks, Porter Osborn ; *Measurers of Wood and Bark*, Wm. H. Burpee, C. A. Goodrich, Horace C. Fuller, George L. Rice, L. E. Osborn, J. M. Robbins, Horace L. Hicks, W. G. Derby, Louis Phelps, James Skinner, William H. Harrison, J. Q. Conant ; *Hartwell Smith Fund Committee*, Dwight B. Look, Mrs. M. D. Haws, Mrs. Elvira Dodge ; *Engineers of Fire Department and Forest Fire Wards*, William H. Spaulding, Chief, Albert W. Allen, Charles H. King, Charles D. Pierce, Elmer H. Bates, *Police Officers*, Charles H. Rhoades, Chief, William Harty, William A. Laselle, David I. Munsie, Charles A. Goodrich, Charles H. Rice, Charles H. King, Charles E. Tilton ; *Keeper of Lockup*, Charles H. Rhoades ; *Probation Officer*, Charles H. Rice ; *Scaler of Weights and Measures*, Charles H. Rice.

*Registrars of Voters*, Philip Lothrop, Michael M. Madigan, Charles A. Chase, Charles A. Joslin, Clerk, by virtue of his office as Town Clerk; *Weighers of Merchandise on Town Scales*, Charles F. Nixon, Edmund Munsie, Alfred A. Wheeler; *Superintendent of Schools*, I. Freeman Hall; *Truant Officers*, Charles H. Rice, Willard D. Blanchard.

**TOWN CLERK**—The duties of the Town Clerk begin immediately upon his election, and the administration of the oath of office by the moderator of the meeting or a justice of the peace. It is his duty to record all votes passed at the meeting at which he is elected, and at all other meetings while he continues in office, to notify all other officers of their election, and to administer the oath of office to all who appear before him for that purpose, and to make a record thereof, also to record the oath of office taken before Justices of the Peace, to record votes cast in elections and make returns of the same, to issue marriage certificates, give burial permits, record births, marriages and deaths, assignments, attachments, mortgages of personal property, dog and liquor licenses.

All records and documents belonging to the office are kept in the sole custody of the Town Clerk, and under his direction all such records or files are open for public inspection and examination and any one may take copies thereof.

Nearly 44 years ago, at the age of 27, Mr. Joel C. Allen was elected to this office and for thirty-nine years he was annually re-elected. During all this time he never once absented himself from the regular town meeting. Upon the death of Mr. Allen, the Selectmen, June 25th, 1884, appointed Mr. Charles S. Perry town clerk and at a special town meeting held Aug. 23d, following, Charles A. Joslin was elected to the office which he has since filled to the satisfaction of the town, who have honored him by a re-election each successive year.

**THE TOWN TREASURER** receives and takes charge of

all moneys belonging to the town and pays out and accounts for the same according to the order of the town or of its duly authorized officers, and renders an annual account of all his receipts, payments and official doings. After serving as Town Clerk for several years Mr. Allen was also elected Town Treasurer, and served in this double capacity up to the time of his death.

June 28th, 1884, the Selectmen appointed, and August 23d the town elected, Mr. Charles A. Joslin his successor, he also has been re-elected Treasurer each year since. Mr. Joslin is a native of Leominster, son of Charles L. Joslin, educated in the Leominster schools, took a business course at Comer's Commercial college in Boston, entered the employ of Joslin & Williams and, after working at the business a year, took the position of book-keeper in the office of the firm, which position he still holds with the present proprietor, Mr. A. W. Williams.

THE SELECTMEN are, in their relation to the town, very much what the Mayor, Aldermen and Common Council are to the city. Generally speaking, it may be said that they are agents to take the general superintendence of the business of the town, to supervise the doings of subordinate agents and the disbursement of moneys appropriated by vote of the town, to take care of its property and to perform many other specific duties.

HOWARD M. LANE, Chairman of the present Board of Selectmen, was born in Epping, N. H., Dec. 12, 1833, educated in the common schools and at the New Hampshire Conference Seminary at Northfield, (now Tilton,) N. H., came to Leominster in the autumn of 1851, and worked at the Piano-forte business for his brother, J. C. Lane, and for Hale W. Page of Fitchburg, until 1857, when he succeeded his brother in the manufacture of Piano Cases, in which business he was engaged for about twenty years. During the last nine years he has been the manager of the Leominster Gas Works, being one of

the original incorporators of the Leominster Gas Light Co., and one of its directors since its incorporation. He was also a member of the water board during the first six years of its existence, being an active member during the construction of the water works. Mr. Lane represented the district of which Leominster formed a part, in the Legislature of 1868, and is now serving the fourth successive year as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Married, Jan. 21st, 1863, Sarah B., daughter of James H. and Caroline Carter.

CHARLES A. HUNT was born in West Boylston, July 19, 1842, was educated in the public schools of that town, removed to Sterling, where he was engaged in the general store business from 1865 to 1876. The following year he came to Leominster, and for a short time carried on the same business in the corner store under what is now A. L. Williams & Co.'s, and was afterwards associated with Balch, Reed & Co., in the manufacture of buttons. Since retiring from business he has found employment, principally, in real estate and other transactions, buying, selling, building, etc. He is now serving the fourth consecutive year on the Board of Selectmen. Married, July 19, 1870, Sarah F., daughter of Leonard and Sarah Osborn.

GEORGE F. COLBURN, was born in Leominster, Jan. 21st, 1830, educated in the public schools, and at the age of seventeen went to Southboro, where he was employed in a country store. In 1850 he went to New York city, remaining until 1855; returning to Leominster, he engaged in the store business with his brother, F. H. Colburn. In 1865 he became interested in the old established comb business with his father, Jonas Colburn, under the firm name of Jonas Colburn & Son, and upon his father's death, in September, 1873, continued the same with the estate until 1879. In 1885 he entered into partnership with his son in the manufacture of musical merchan-



WILLIAM A. LASSELLE.



ARTHUR M. NOYES.



CHARLES H. GOURRICH.



CHARLES J. KNYAKER.  
HARTFORD, CONN.



HARLOW H. PINES.



CHARLES H. RICE.



CHARLES H. RICE.  
HARTFORD, CONN.



CHARLES H. RICE.



dise, the firm being A. W. Colburn, & Co. In 1864, 65, 66 and 67 he served the town as Assessor and on the Board of Selectmen in 1871, 1873, 1887 and 1888. In addition to his interest in town affairs, Mr. Colburn has always been actively interested in Town, State and National politics. He represented the town of Leominster in the State Legislature in 1878 and 1879. Married, Catherine E., daughter of Lowell A. and Hannah Newton of Southboro.

### POLICE DEPARTMENT.

The police force, at present, consists of a Chief and seven men, two of whom are detailed for regular duty, leaving a reserve force of five men for special duty. The officers, in their efforts to prevent crime, particularly by the suppression of the sale of intoxicating liquors, are heartily supported and seconded by the town officials and the people. As evidence of this it may be stated that during the year ending Feb. 29th, 1888, the number of arrests for drunkenness were 53, of which number 27 came into town in an intoxicated condition, and were arrested upon their arrival. This rigid and successful enforcement of the laws is due largely to the determination of the police to do their duty, knowing that the Board of Selectmen will stand by them in any emergency, and having that confidence which can only come from an emphatic public sentiment back of them.

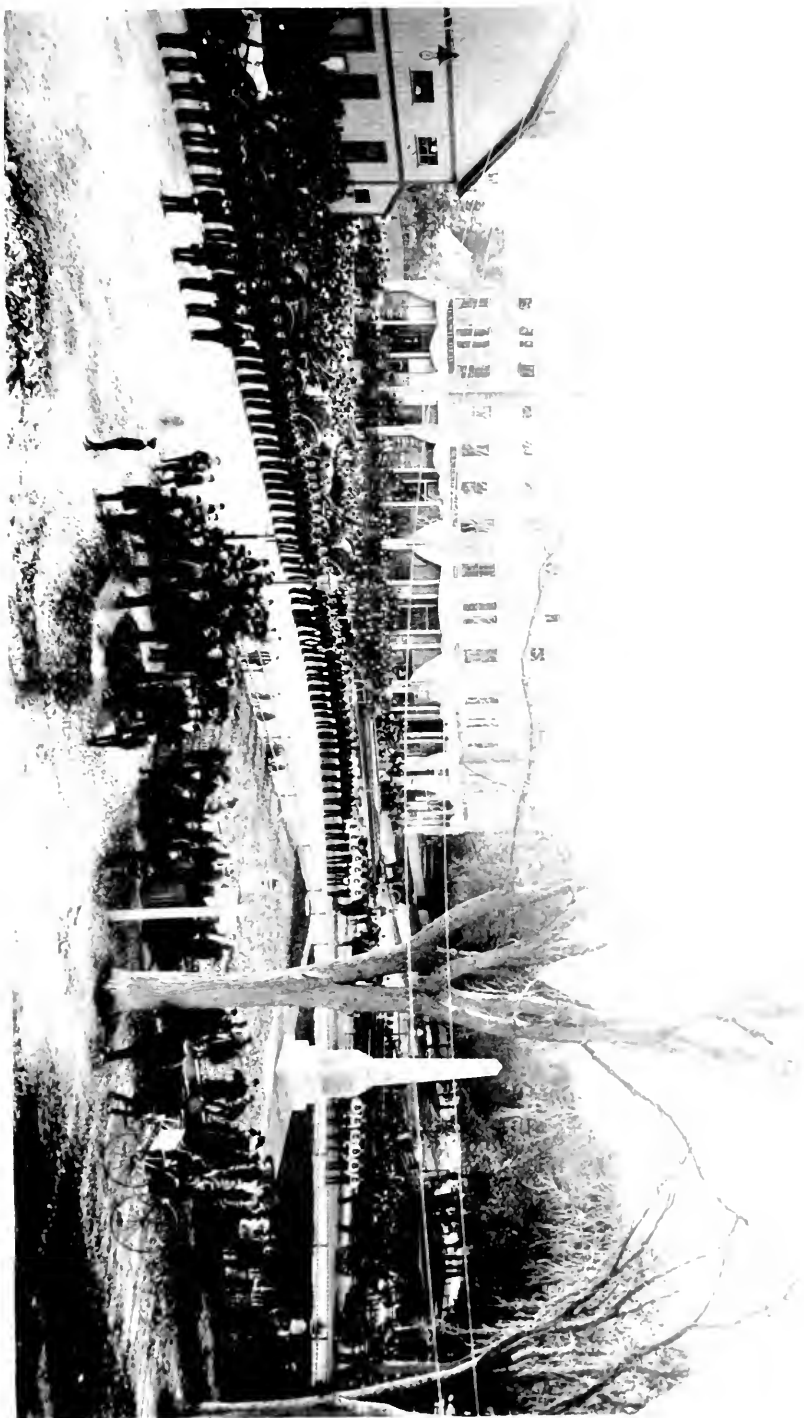
CHARLES H. RHOADES, Chief of Police, was born in Boston, October 30th, 1833. He came to Leominster when 17 years old and served three years as an apprentice with Isaac Cowdrey, the well known carpenter. In 1857 he went South, and was in Southern and Western States and Territories, passing a portion of his time with the Pawnees and Uncas, until the fall of 1860, when he returned to Massachusetts and settled in Malden, engaging in the lumber, wood and coal business.



In 1870 he was appointed a Deputy Sheriff of Middlesex, serving in that capacity until 1878. In 1879 and 80 he was Chief of Police of Malden, and in May, 1883, was appointed at the head of the Leominster police, and has been unanimously re-appointed to the position for six consecutive years. The Chief gives his whole time to the duties of his office, and conducts personally all cases before the lower court.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Previous to 1846 the community was dependent upon the individual efforts of its citizens, armed with fire buckets, to protect its property from fire. In July of that year the town purchased of W. C. Hunneman, of Boston, the first "water engine," which was named Torrent, No. 1. It was a plain tub machine, without bell or buckets, and destitute of ornament. Mr. Ward M. Cotton had the general management up to May, 1848, when a company was organized and confirmed by the Selectmen. Mr. Isaac Cowdrey was foreman, Col. Joseph S. Darling, 2d foreman, and J. C. Fletcher, Esq., clerk. The engine house was along side the old Town Hall, subsequently Gardner Hall. This company had no legal organization, but in May, 1849, a new company was formed and a Constitution and By-laws were adopted. This was the first regular organization. Its officers were J. C. Lane, foreman, Arthur Mehan, 2d foreman, J. C. Fletcher, Esq., clerk, Leander Woods, treasurer, Ephraim Divoll, steward. Each member of the Department was allowed a sum equal to his poll tax for his services. In 1850, Henry Polley was made foreman, and Wm. Hale, steward. The sum of \$500 was raised by subscription, and a bell, four buckets, an arch and a tongue procured. The next company organized was "Union, No. 2," located in North Leominster. An unusual effort has been made to get data relating to this company, but the early records and books have been miss-



FROM THE FINE FACILITY AT ANNUAL - ARAB



ing for several years and the only events of interest relating to it are obtained from the records of the other company. In some cases the two were associated, as for example, at the time the Orthodox church was struck by lightning in 1850, both companies were promptly on hand, and subdued the fire. In consequence of this important service, the Old Worcester Mutual Insurance Co., made each company a present of \$25. About this time there was considerable interest in fire matters, and there existed a spirit of friendly rivalry between the two companies, the first actual contest resulting in favor of "Union No. 2." by a few seconds of time. While practicing for the trial the members of "Torrent No. 1" would meet at 7 o'clock, the time appointed, man the rope, start from their house, run down to the bridge over Monoosnock brook, put down suction, lay off 250 feet of hose and pass water through the pipes inside of three minutes. Oct. 17, 1874, the whole fire department turned out for drill and practice. At the trial Torrent 1 Co. drew water from a hogshead, which was supplied from a hydrant, played through 200 feet of hose, and threw a stream of water 183 feet, 3 1-2 inches. Union No. 2 Co., under the same circumstances, threw a stream of water 189 feet, 4 1-2 inches. The two companies soon after had a contest for a silver trumpet, presented by N. G. Wood, which was won by Torrent 1, and subsequently presented to W. H. Spaulding, at that time foreman. For several years the Hook and Ladder companies have had trial contests with out of town companies, and at the present time, Sept. 1st, 1888, the Clipper H. & L. Co., of Leominster, hold the championship of the world. The contest, in which they came off victorious, took place on the track of the Agricultural Park at Worcester, June 2d, of the present year, the race being with the J. N. Grout, H. & L. Co., of Spencer. Each company was allowed 25 men; 5 to stand at the truck and 20 to start from the stand, and each were to

splice their ladders and put a man on the stage 28 feet from the ground ; referee, Capt. H. R. Williams, fire patrol, Worcester; Capt. S. E. Combs and D. A. Barns, judges ; C. M. Mills, of the fire alarm telegraph, fired the pistol, and W. A. England was the official time keeper. The time made by the Spencer company was 61 2-5 seconds, and that of the Clipper just 61 seconds. Upon their return to Leominster Saturday evening foreman Killelea and runner Fox were drawn around the square, with an escort, headed by the Leominster drum corps. The demonstration was one long to be remembered. The behavior of the company throughout the day was such as to do credit to the town, and at 12 o'clock all demonstration ceased, and those who regard the Sabbath were not disturbed. An unusual effort will be made the coming fall to relieve them of their well earned laurels, but the Clippers are having a new truck made, and expect to better their present record, and hold the advantage already gained.

The fire department has always had a good reputation for efficient and effective service, and its standard was never higher than at the present time. It is under the management of a board of engineers, who have in charge a good outfit of modern equipments, consisting of one steam fire engine, two Hook and Ladder trucks, and four Hose carriages. The board of Engineers are chosen in April, and appointed May 1st, by the Selectmen, and are as follows : W. H. Spaulding, chief ; Charles H. King, 1st assistant ; Charles D. Pierce, 2d assistant ; Elmer H. Bates, 3d assistant ; Albert W. Allen, 4th assistant.

STEAMER AURORA, No. 1., is located on Church street. Engineer, Wm. H. Wood.

CLIPPER HOOK AND LADDER CO. No. 1., on Church street. Foreman, James Killelea ; clerk, P. H. Killelea ; 15 men.

WASHINGTON HOSE CO. No. 1., on Church street. Fore-

man, Walter H. Rugg; assistant foreman, Ernest Perkins, clerk, John Wilcox; 10 men.

ALWAYS READY HOSE No. 2, on Church street. Foreman, Frank Gleason; clerk, L. W. Lowe; 12 men.

FRANKLIN HOSE CO. No. 3, on Main street, North Leominster. Foreman, T. J. O'Brien; assistant foreman, P. C. Chute; steward, F. C. King; secretary, J. L. Jones; 12 men.

TORRENT HOSE CO. No. 4, on Church street. Foreman, Charles H. Pierce; clerk, Clarence N. Cozzens; 10 men.

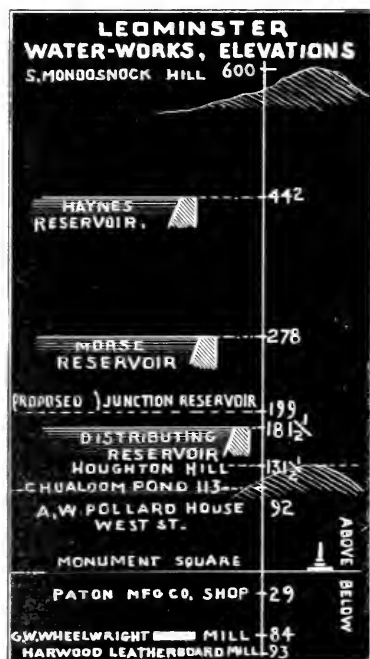
The first Chief of the Leominster Fire Department was Emery Tilton, followed by Henry Stearns, D. B. Stratton, James Skinner, George R. Damon,

WILLIAM H. SPAULDING, the present Chief Engineer, is a native of Rochester, New York, learned the carpenter's trade when he was 16 years of age; came to Leominster in July, 1865, and entered the employ of Edwin Litchfield, but soon after went to work for Tenney & Lockey, afterward J. P. Lockey, then John H. Lockey, and more recently the Lockey Piano Case Co., and with the exception of an interval of a few months, has been actively connected with the fire department since 1866.

## WATER DEPARTMENT.

The Leominster Water Works were built in 1873, and the town began furnishing water, Jan. 1, 1874. The first action taken towards providing a water supply was in 1870, when Manson D. Haws, Esq., caused an article to be inserted in the town warrant, to see what action the town would take to obtain water. The committee to examine and report consisted of M. D. Haws, C. H. Merriam, J. H. Lockey, J. C. Allen and Cephas Derby. Subsequently Mr. Lockey, declining to act further with the committee, Dr. G. W. Pierce was elected to fill his place and Augustus Whitman was added to the committee. The necessary authority having been granted by the legislature

the town voted Dec. 30, 1872, on a test vote of 249 yeas to 5 nays, to proceed with the work, according to plans reported by their committee and chose a water board consisting of Emery Tilton, Dr. G. W. Pierce, for three years; H. M. Lane and George Hall for two years; C. H. Merriam and Wm. M. How-



land for one year. The board was organized with C. H. Merriam, chairman, H. M. Lane, clerk, and Wm. M. Howland, treasurer. January 13, 1873, this board was authorized and instructed to proceed with the work. A loan was obtained from the State Treasurer, payable one third each in ten, fifteen and twenty years, at seven per cent interest. The contract was awarded to Charles L. Goodhue of Springfield, Mass., and completed by him to the satisfaction of the town, Dec. 23, 1873, at which

time the water was permanently let into the pipes.

The water is taken from Morse brook about one and one half miles from the center, and has a fall of one hundred and eighty-three feet at the top of the curbstone around Monument Square, with a pressure of about seventy-nine pounds to the square inch. The drainage area is 1.215 acres and the storage capacity of all the reservoirs is 150,000,000 gallons. The original surveys and plans were made, providing for four reservoirs, "Haynes," "Morse," "Junction," and "Distributing." Three were constructed and the fourth, "Junction," reservoir left to be built at some future time, if needed for storage.

The amount of water in the three reservoirs is adequate to supply present demands. The accompanying diagram gives the elevations of the several reservoirs and points of land and other well known localities in town, with distance above or below the curbstone at Monument square. A sketch of Mr. Emery Tilton, the first Superintendent of the Water Works is given elsewhere.

MR. JOSEPH G. TENNEY, the present superintendent of the Water Works, has occupied that position and has also been treasurer of the board since 1879. He was born in Leominster, Aug. 5, 1825, educated in the public schools of the town, learned the carpenter's trade and began the business of carpenter and builder for himself, while yet in his minority. At the age of twenty he contracted to build his first house for his sister, Mrs. Maynard, on Pleasant street, and soon after the A. O. Wilder house on West street. In 1850 he built a residence for himself on Water street, where he first began housekeeping and where he has since lived. In 1859, Mr. Tenney went South, but was sent for by Isaac Cowdrey to return and help him build a house for Porter M. Kimball. This he did, and continued in business with Mr. Cowdrey for some time. In 1864 he engaged in the Piano business with J. P. Lockey, and in 1867 became the first treasurer of the Arlington Piano Co. In 1870 he began outside, the manufacture of sounding boards, for the same company, erecting the building opposite his residence on Water street, for that purpose. He was associated with the Stratton brothers at Strattons' mills in 1871, bought out their interest, and in 1874 entered into partnership with Captain Clesson Kenney, under the style of Tenney & Kenney, continuing for five years, after which time the latter conducted the lumber business and Mr. Tenney gave his attention to the management of the Water Department for the town.



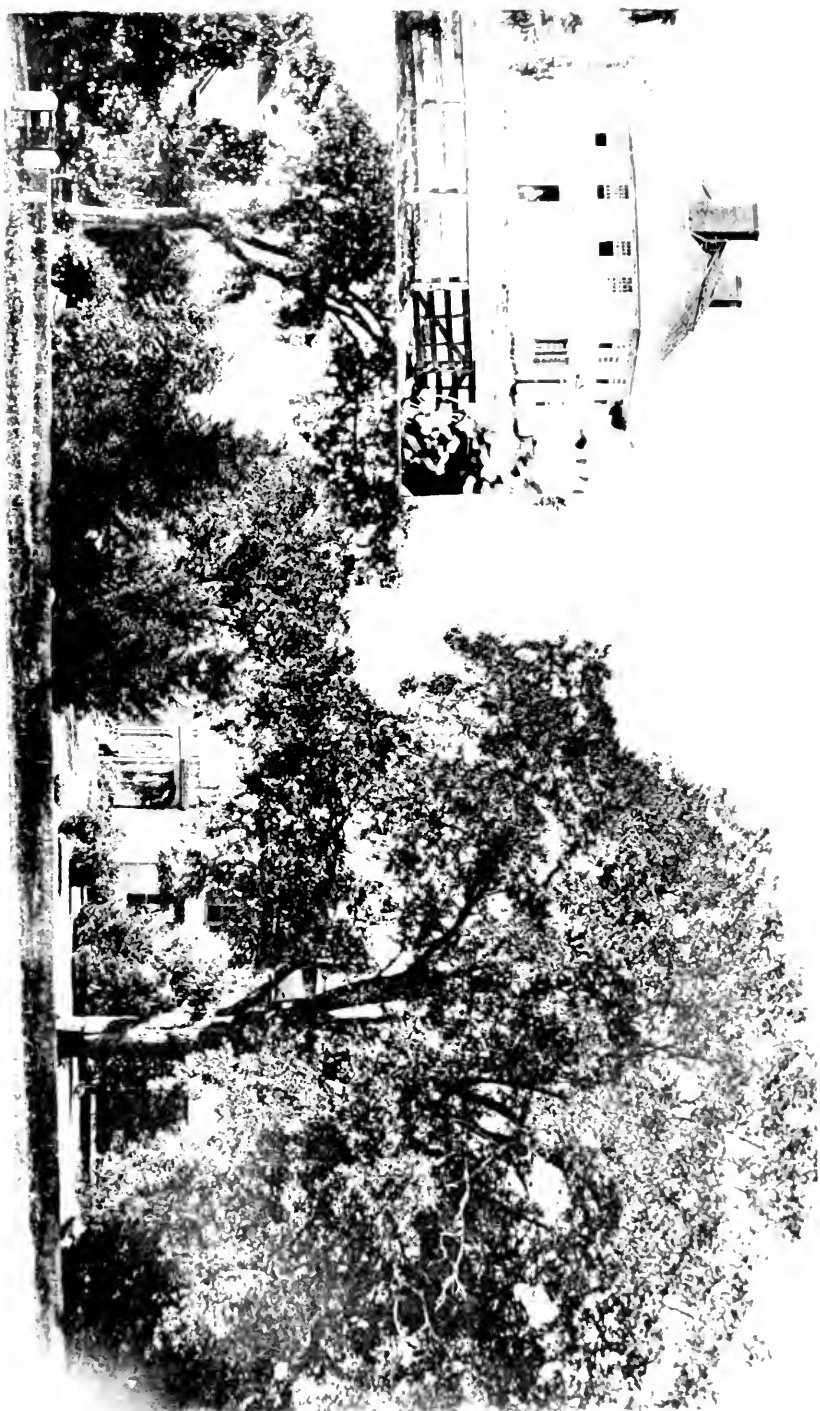
## CHAPTER IV.

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1812-1875



SEVENTEEN 1713 the first church in Leominster was organized and Rev. John Rogers a direct descendant of the martyr of that name was ordained their first minister. The frame of the first meeting house was raised in the summer of 1713, on land purchased for that purpose of Ebenezer Houghton and situated in the northeast corner of what is now the old burying ground. The building was far enough towards completion in the winter of 1713 so as to have a roof and siding, and it was 13 feet in length 13 in width and 22 feet high. It was rough boarded on the outside with few windows and within only a large floor and movable seats or benches. There were no pews for several years and the outside was not finished and painted until 1733. This house was used not only for public worship, but as a town house and the town meetings were held in it for over thirty years. In 1743 it was sold at public auction to the Baptist society in Hartford and taken down and carried to Still River, and for a long time was used by them as a place of worship until they



THE "OLD PARSONAGE" OF REV. FRANCIS GARNER.

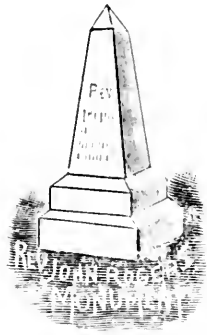
RESIDENCE OF D. W. SALISBURY, WEST STREET.



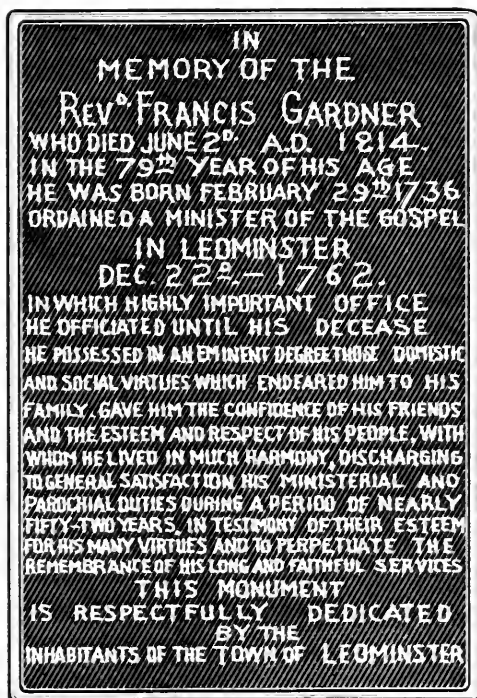
were about to build a larger house, when they moved the old one across the street, and fitted it up for a parsonage. On account of differences in opinion between himself and his people, about minor doctrinal points of religion, Mr. Rogers was dismissed in 1757, but about one-fifth of the society adhering to him, a "poll Society" was made of them by the Legislature, to whom he preached until prevented by the infirmities of age, and was dismissed by them in 1788.

After the settlement of the controversy with Mr. Rogers, the church and town proceeded to the choice of a minister, and in 1762, Rev. Francis Gardner was settled as their second pastor. After the dismissal of Mr. Rogers from the "poll Society," that church and society was dissolved, and the members united with Mr. Gardner's church. Mr. Rogers died October 6, 1789, in the 78th year of his age. The marble monument to his memory was placed over his grave in the old cemetery in 1845 by a committee of the First Congregational Society, one half the expense being paid by the Hon. Walter R. Johnson, of Washington, D. C. a grand-son of Mr. Rogers.

REV. FRANCIS GARDNER, was a son of Rev. John Gardner, of Stowe, and was born Feb. 29, 1736; was graduated at Harvard University in 1755, and was nearly 27 years of age when ordained. He was a man of sound understanding and great learning, a thorough biblical scholar, a discreet and prudent pastor, and a good sermonizer, but, according to Mr. Wilder in his valuable history, "as an orator,



the Rev. Mr. Adams of Lunenburg and some others were far his superiors." Mr. Adams was not only a good orator, and a good minister, but he was somewhat facetious. On a certain occasion he expressed himself in language like the following: "Let Father Gardner write a sermon and let me deliver it, and we would beat the devil," meaning, undoubtedly



that the effect of such sermons thus delivered, would be to convince the hearers that, whenever they were enticed by the adversary to commit sin, they should immediately obey the precept given by St. James: "Resist the devil, and he will flee from thee." Mr. Gardner died suddenly at Watertown, while on a journey to Boston, June 2, 1814, in the seventy-ninth year of his age and

the fifty-second of his ministry. He was buried in our old burying-ground and over his grave a tablet was erected by the town to commemorate his valuable services and to express their gratitude and respect for him. It was during the ministry of Mr. Gardner that the second meeting-house was built, the site, a little more than an acre, being what is now the common in front of the present First Congregational (Unitarian) Church, the dimensions being, probably about 50 x 60

feet, and fronting to the east. At each end was a porch, and in each of the porches were two flights of stairs to the gallery. The expense of the house is not known, but it was considered a large and elegant meeting-house. It was considered the town's property, and for fifty years the town meetings were held in it. In 1824 it was taken down and converted into a town house, and used as such for twenty-seven years until the new brick town house was completed in 1851.

REV. WM. BASCOM, the successor of Mr. Gardner was installed in 1815. He was a graduate of Harvard University in 1802, and had been settled in Fitchburg. After a ministry of about five years, the connection between him and the church was dissolved March 2d, 1820. He died in 1845.

REV. ABEL CONANT, the next minister, ordained January 24th, 1821, was a native of Milford, New Hampshire, where he was born July 17, 1793. He graduated at Dartmouth in 1815, and was preceptor of Groton Academy several years, while he was studying his profession. During the ministry of Mr. Conant, the third meeting-house was built by the town. Three more religious societies were organized, and three other houses for public worship erected. Mr. Conant died December 6th, 1836, and was buried in the south-westerly part of the old cemetery. A granite monument was erected by the Society to mark his resting place.



The present Unitarian church edifice was built by a vote of the town at a town meeting held on the 8th of December, 1821. The building was completed early in the fall of 1823. The pews were sold for \$1600 more than enough to pay for building, and a portion of that sum was appropriated to the purchase of an organ. The bell, which, for so many years, on every Sunday morning, has invited the members of all religious societies

to the worship of God, was presented to the town by one of its public spirited citizens, Joel Crosby, Esq. Oct. 15th, 1823, the church was dedicated.

On the 4th day of May, 1835, the "First Congregational Society of Leominster," was organized by law, and the town ceased to manage its parochial affairs. In the spring of 1837 the clock was placed in the tower of the meeting-house, in accordance with the provisions of the will of the late Joel Crosby, Esq., who, by the same will gave \$1000, the interest of which, was to be used for the support of the parish. In 1850 the meeting-house was finished up in more modern style, but its general appearance remained unchanged. Outwardly, the steeple of "beautiful architectural symmetry" remained untouched, as also did the clock and bell.

MR. RUFUS PHINEAS STEBBINS, a graduate of Amherst and of the Theological School at Cambridge, preached as a candidate in July, 1837, and was ordained September following. His relations with the Society were dissolved by mutual consent in 1844, he having accepted a call to preside over an institution in Meadville, Pa., for the preparation of young men for the ministry.

MR. HIRAM WITHINGTON, his successor, also a graduate of the school at Cambridge, was settled over the church from December 25th, 1844, to July 31, 1848.

REV. AMOS SMITH became their minister November 26th, 1848, and resigned September 1st, 1856. From that time to September 2d, 1857, the pulpit was supplied by Rev. T. B. Forbush and Mr. Stephen Barker, at which time Mr. Barker was ordained, remaining until June 1, 1860.

REV. ELI FAY was installed June 1st, 1861, and resigned April 1st, 1864. August 3d of the same year, Rev. John B. Green, a graduate of Meadville Theological School, Pa., became the pastor, remaining until June 20th, 1867.

REV. E. A. HORTON, a graduate of the University of Michigan, (with honorary degree of M. A. in 1880) and a graduate of Meadville Theological School, Pa., in 1868, settled in Leominster in 1868, remaining seven years; was then out one year by illness; three years at the old church, Hingham, and was settled over Second Church, Boston, in 1880.

REV. WILLIAM H. SAVAGE, a graduate of Andover Theological Seminary, was settled in Leominster from Nov. 1876 to Nov. 1886, when he accepted a pastorate in Watertown, Mass.

REV. EDWARD B. PAYNE, the present pastor, is a native of Vermont, forty years of age, a graduate of Oberlin Seminary, preached five years as a Congregational minister in Berkely, Cal. After becoming a Unitarian he was settled at Springfield and Manchester, and Feb. 2d, 1887 was installed in Leominster.

#### THE ORTHODOX CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

In pursuance of letters missive from a number of persons belonging to the society organized Nov. 26th, 1822, (now legally designated "The Orthodox Congregational Society in the town of Leominster") desirous of forming themselves into a church, an Ecclesiastical Council convened at the house of Capt. Ephraim Lincoln, Dec. 25, 1822. The result of this Council was the organization of a church, in connection with the Society then existing, with 10 members. To these were added fourteen others who had been members of the First Congregational church, (Unitarian) who were received into the new church December 26th, on the recommendation of an *ex-parte* Council convened at their call. The Church thus formed worshipped in a private house, the same in which it was organized, for nearly two years. Their first meeting-house was built in 1824, and located northerly from the common, about half way to the old burying ground, on land that was formerly owned by Ebenezer Houghton, and is now the Catholic Church on Main street,



having been occupied by the builders until sold to the Methodist Society in 1837. Its second place of worship was erected on its present lot on Park street, southwesterly from the common (on land originally owned by Rufus Houghton) in 1836, and was dedicated Feb. 8, 1837. In May, 1850, this house was struck by lightning, and came near being destroyed. In repair-



ing it alterations were made in pews and galleries. In Feb. 1872 it caught fire from an overheated furnace and was entirely consumed. The society had previously arranged to build their present brick church the coming season, which was completed and dedicated August 19, 1873. It cost about \$65,000, seats about eight hundred and fifty persons and is one of the finest country churches in the State.

MR. PHILLIPS PAYSON, a son of Dr. Seth Payson of Rindge, N. H., the first minister settled over this church, was ordained

Nov. 17th, 1825, and dismissed on account of ill health April 17th, 1832.

REV. O. G. HUBBARD, of Sunderland, the successor of Mr. Payson, graduated at Amherst College in 1829. He was ordained May 23d, 1833, and after a faithful and successful ministry was dismissed in June 1851. He died in East Falmouth Aug. 14th, 1852.

REV. JOEL S. BINGHAM, a graduate of Marietta College,



Ohio, after a pastorate in Charlotte, Vermont, was installed as Mr. Hubbard's successor, December 17th, 1851. He closed his pastorate, which had been one of great success, June 1st, 1857, removing to Westfield, Mass. He was afterwards settled for several years in East Boston, Mass., and is, at the present time settled pastor at Traer, Iowa.

REV. JOSEPH W. BACKUS, the next pastor of this church and a graduate of Yale, was installed January 14th, 1858, and dismissed August 13th, 1862.

REV. HORACE PARKER began his ministry December 7, 1862, without a formal call or installation, continuing as acting pastor until May 1, 1865. In January and February, 1865, with the consent of the church, he served as delegate of the Christian Commission at Meade's Station, Va. He has since done much good work as a minister of the gospel, in Ashby, Pepperell and Lunenburg, until obliged by ill health to resign. He is now a resident of Shirley, Mass.

REV. WILLIAM J. BATT, a native of Fall River, and a graduate of Brown and Andover, was next installed as pastor, Oct. 17th, 1865, having supplied the pulpit for some months previous. His ministry was very successful in every respect. Mr. Batt was dismissed July 15th, 1874. He is now, as he has been for several years, chaplain and moral instructor at the State Reformatory in Concord.

REV. HENRY A. WALES, succeeded Mr. Batt as acting Pastor. He studied theology at Hartford Seminary, Conn., and was ordained to the ministry Sept. 12th, 1866. He served this church from Sept. 1874 to Sept. 1877.

REV. SYLVANUS C. KENDALL entered upon the duties of the pastorate May 1st, 1878. He closed his ministry here at the expiration of one year. He is a graduate of Amherst and Andover, and an able preacher.

REV. GABRIEL H. DEBEVOISE, a graduate of Phillips Academy, Williams College and Andover Theological Seminary, was called to the pastorate January 26th, 1880. He accepted the call and was duly installed March 3d, 1880. He resigned May 25th, 1883, after a very successful pastorate, and was dismissed by council July 18th, 1883. He entered the service of the Missionary Department of the Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society, where he labored faithfully until the time of his present settlement over the Second Congregational Church and Association of Keene, N. H.

REV. RICHARD MEREDITH, the present pastor, was installed March 6th, 1884. Mr Meredith is of Welsh parentage. He received his education and training for the Christian ministry in his native land; but preferring the United States as the scene of his public labors, he came to this country in 1862. In April 1863 he entered the Troy Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church and spent fifteen years in the Itineracy. In 1878 he accepted a call to the First Congregational Church in East Hartford, Conn., and after six years service there, he received and accepted a call to his present position. Of the members of this church six are known to have entered the ministry, viz: Thomas Boutelle, Artemas A. Wood, now in Lyons, N. Y., Fernando Putnam, who afterwards entered the Protestant Episcopal Church, Payson Tyler, who preached and died at Hardwick, Vermont, Francis J. Marsh, ordained at Upton, Mass., in 1875, who is now pastor of the Congregational Church at Walpole, Mass., and Albert H. Wheelock, who was ordained at Topsham, Me., July 1st, 1888, where he now labors.

#### ST. LEO'S CATHOLIC CHURCH.

The first movement for the formation of a Catholic Church in Leominster, was made in 1849, by the Rev. M. F. Gibson, pastor at Worcester, Mass., who came here and said mass at the home of one of the Catholic families. From that time he made monthly visits and, as the numbers increased rapidly, permission was granted by the Selectmen to use the Town Hall, then Gardner Hall, and there services were held every other week. In 1857 the small meeting-house owned by the Baptist Society, on North Main street, near the North Village, was purchased and fitted up for worship. At this time Fitchburg was assigned a resident pastor, (Rev. M. F. Gibson) and Leominster was made a part of that parish, and was attended

by Father Gibson until 1856, Rev. Edward Turpin until 1866, and Rev. C. M. Foley until 1872, when Leominster was made an independent parish with the present efficient pastor, the Rev. Daniel Shiel. Father Shiel completed his studies at St. Carlow, Ireland, and was the first priest ordained by the Rt. Rev. P. T. O'Reilly. The present church and a parsonage were purchased of the Methodist Society in 1871. In 1876 this church was remodelled and much enlarged, so as to give a seating capacity of 800, making a fine church edifice. In 1882 the old parsonage building was moved from its location on Main street adjoining the church, and a new and attractive modern structure erected on its site. When the parish was established and Father Sheil appointed (in 1873) the church was dedicated to Almighty God, under the patronage of St. Leò. It is now a large and flourishing parish.

#### CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH.

Early in the ministry of the Rev. Mr. Bascom, those persons, in town, who embraced Baptist views, united with the Baptist Society in Holden. In August 1822 those who had joined the Holden church, with others to the number of sixty-five, were dismissed to form a church in Princeton. The members living in Leominster were constituted a branch with the privilege of sustaining a minister, and a Calvinistic Baptist Society was formed in 1824, by David Allen and nine others. The Branch Church was publicly organized as a distinct and independent Church of Christ in 1837. This church was dissolved Oct. 27th, 1849, and a church, principally composed of members of the old church, was constituted March 10th, 1850. It was named "The Central Baptist Church of Leominster." A new Society had been organized three months previous. The first place of worship was the old John Richardson tailor shop on Main street. Its first meeting-house was built by

Capt. David Allen, and located on the plain near North Leominster, on land now occupied for a residence by S. A. Meads. It was dedicated in June 1832, and occupied by them until 1849. It was afterwards owned by the Catholic Society until they purchased their present house of worship on Main street. At present it is occupied by the said Meade as a barn and carpenter's shop. The present church edifice in the center of the town, facing the common, was erected on land purchased of the First Congregational (Unitarian) Society in 1849, and was dedicated in January 1850. The ministers by whom the people were supplied with preaching prior to the formation of the "Central" Church were (as nearly as can be learned) as follows: Rev.'s John Walker, A. Sampson, Elisha Andrews, Nicholas Branch, Elias McGregory, Luther Goddard, Josiah C. Carpenter, David Taylor and B. H. Clift. At the organization of the "Central Baptist Church," (March 10, 1850,) the Rev. A. M. Swain was chosen pastor, the call being dated April 27th. He continued pastor until Nov. 1854. Rev. A. C. Bronson, his successor, served from Dec. 1854, until June 1857. The Rev. Isaac Woodbury served the church one year, beginning Sept. 6th, 1857. Rev. A. M. Higgins accepted the call of the church May 1st, 1859, remaining thirteen months. For about a year after this, the church was supplied by Joseph Barber, then a student at Worcester. In January, 1862, the Rev. W. H. Watson, commenced a pastorate of three years and a half. Rev. A. L. Fittz supplied the church from July 1865 until Jan. 1st, 1866, when Rev. Abijah Hall of Attleboro, became their pastor. In July, 1868, he was succeeded by Rev. Thomas Clarkson Russell, who remained until April 1, 1874. Rev. A. F. Mason was settled November 5th, 1874, remaining until April 23d, 1876. Rev. O. D. Kimball was pastor from Sept. 3d, 1876, to Feb. 4th, 1883; Rev. A. L. Freeman from Feb. 24th, 1884 until July 29th, 1886.

REV. JULIUS B. ROBINSON, the present pastor, was born in Lebanon, Conn. He graduated at Newton Theological Institute in June, 1873, and was ordained at Milford, Mass., July 2d of the same year. He has since been settled at Fisherville, since re-named Penacook, N. H., at West Springfield, Mass., and in New York city, "Riverside" church, corner Broadway and Eighty-sixth street. His pastorate began Nov. 7th, 1886.

#### THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

This Society was formed March 27th, 1823, at the residence of Nathan Stratton. John Stratton was chosen clerk, but the church was not legally organized until March 10th, 1828. Its first meeting-house, standing at the corner of Prospect and Harvard streets, and at present used for a dwelling-house, was dedicated in December, 1829, and was used until the Society removed to the house purchased of the Evangelical Society in January 1839. The Society enlarged the last named house in 1849, erecting a steeple, etc. In 1871 the Society sold this house to the Catholic Bishop and removed to its present handsome church edifice on Main street. This house was erected at a cost of \$65000.00, and has a seating capacity of 800. The ministers of this Society, being of the itinerant order, have remained only for short periods, and have, consequently, been somewhat numerous. At first the ministers were circuit preachers and hence there were frequently two or three at a time. The dates of settlement cannot, in many instances, be obtained, but we are able to give what is believed to be a complete list of ministers who have preached since the Society was established. In explanation it may be said that previous to '46 this church was either on a circuit or was a mission station. In '23 the first Society was formed by Erastus Otis, who with George Fairbanks, were stationed on the Needham circuit, with which, it is supposed Leominster was connected



REV. E. B. PAYNE.



REV. R. MEREDITH.



REV. J. S. ROBINSON



REV. C. F. RICE.



REV. DANIEL SHEIL.



REV. F. A. BALCOM.



REV. R. P. STEBBINS.



REV. S. C. KENJALL



REV. J. H. [unclear]



REV. A. B. TOULMIN



REV. A. F. [unclear]



REV. [unclear]





until '34, when it was probably connected with the Marlboro Circuit. In '31 Leominster was probably connected with Lunenburg, in '36 with Fitchburg, and from '36 to '39 with Lunenburg and Marlboro, when it was probably again connected with Lunenburg; in '40 with Marlboro and Fitchburg mission. In '41 it was Leominster and Lunenburg; in '42 Lunenburg and Leominster, in '43 Leominster and Sterling missions, in '44-5 it was a missionary station by itself, and after that a regular station. The list of ministers is as follows: '23, Erastus Otis and George E. Fairbanks. '24, Benjamin Hazelton, John C. Risley and Ira M. Bidwell; '25, John Lindsay Jared Perkins and H. S. Ramsdell; '26, Joel Steele, Jared Perkins and Leonard B. Griffin; '27, Abraham D. Merrill, Giles Campbell and Thomas W. Tucker, supernumary; '28, Ephraim K. Avery, Thos. W. Tucker and Lewis Johnson; '29, Daniel Fillmore, Isaac Jennison and A. B. Kinsman; '30, Daniel Fillmore, and Isaac Jennison; '31, Jacob Sanborn and Sanford Benton; '32, Abraham D. Merrill and Samuel Coggeshall; '33, Isaac Jennison; '34, Charles Virgin; '35, Thomas W. Tucker and Joel Knight; '36, J. S. Ellis; '37, Charles Virgin, William P. White and Ebenezer F. Newell, supernumary; '38, Horace Moulton and Ephraim Culver, Jr.; '39, Willard Smith; '40, Benjamin Paine and Willard Smith, '41, Benjamin Paine and Samuel Heath; '42, Samuel Heath and William A. Ciapp; '43, Horace Moulton; '44-5, Thomas H. Mudge; '46, John C. Ingalls; '47-8, Z. B. C. Dunham; '49-50, Samuel Tupper; '51-2, Daniel Steele; '53-4, Zachariah A. Mudge; '55, Nathan Soule; '56-7, Cyrus L. Eastman; '58-9, John Middleton; '60, Charles Miller; '61, Jabez W. P. Jordan; '62, Jabez W. P. Jordan and H. M. Loud; '63, M. M. Parkhurst; '64, Jonas M. Bailey; '65-6, Thomas J. Abbott; '67-8, Converse L. Macurdy; '69-70-71, John Peterson; '72-3, Joseph H. Mansfield; '74-5-6, Alfred A. Wright;

'77, M. Emory Wright ; '78-9-80, Ebenezer A. Smith ; '81-2-3, William B. Toulmin ; '84, M. H. A. Evans ; '85, Henry Lummis ; '86-7, Charles W. Wilder ; '88, Charles F. Rice.

REV. CHARLES F. RICE, the present pastor, was born in Chelsea, Mass., April 14th, 1851. He is the son of Rev. Wm. Rice, D. D., of Springfield, Mass., and of Caroline L., daughter of Wm. North, of Lowell. He graduated from Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn., in the class of '72. After graduating, he held for a time the position of Classical Teacher in the Springfield High School. In 1874 he was elected Tutor of Latin in Wesleyan University, where he remained for three years. In the spring of 1875, he joined the New England Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in 1877, was appointed pastor of the Appleton M. E. Church in Boston, which position he held until April 1880. His subsequent pastorates have been as follows : 80-82, Wesley Chapel, Salem ; 83-4, Webster ; 85-7, St. Paul's, Lowell. In April, '88, he was appointed pastor of the M. E. Church in Leominster. Aug. 25th, 1875, he married Miriam O. Jacobs, daughter of Horace Jacobs, M. D., of Springfield, Mass., and they have four children, one daughter and three sons.

#### CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHRIST.

On March 24, 1874, several of the members of the Orthodox Congregational Church of Leominster, who were residents of the village of North Leominster, met at the house of Geo. S. Burrage, "to consider the expediency of forming a Congregational church in that village." This action was due to a deep feeling that there was need of a local church. As a result of this meeting, and of others which grew out of it, an ecclesiastical council was called to meet in Kendall Hall, May 6th, 1874, to advise concerning the expediency of forming a Congregational Church here. By this council a church was

duly formed and recognized under the name of "The Congregational Church of Christ."

The first officers of the church were as follows : Pastor, Rev. Henry E. Cooley ; deacons, Leonard Wood, John Henry Shedd ; clerk, Mrs. Abby G. Boutelle ; treasurer, George Hall ; church committee, Timothy Dwight Wood, Mrs. Martha A. Burrage, Mrs. Julia P. Wood, George Hall ; superintendent of Sunday school, Leonard Wood.

The "Congregational Society of North Leominster" was organized April 17th, 1875, with the following officers : clerk, Leonard Wood ; treasurer, George Hall ; executive committee, Newton C. Boutelle, George S. Burrage, John H. Shedd.

For several years after its organization the services of the church were held in Kendall Hall. The church edifice, which stands upon Main street in the village, was dedicated on the 7th of April, 1880, free from all indebtedness. The cost of the building, and its furnishings, was \$16,000. The work was done under the supervision of George Hall, Charles Farnsworth and James Skinner, as a building committee. Prominent among the donors toward the building and furnishing of this house were Augustus Whitman and Capt. Leonard Burrage. From Mr. Whitman, at the time of his decease, the Society received a legacy of \$5000, and from Mr. Burrage, upon his death in 1888, they received a legacy of \$6000. To Mr. Burrage the Society is also indebted for the gift of its parsonage and lot, which is situated nearly opposite his late residence, at the upper end of Main street.

REV. HENRY E. COOLEY, the first pastor, was installed Nov. 10th, 1874 ; he died Feb. 17th, 1877. Other pastors have served as follows : Rev. E. G. Smith, from June 1877 to June 1881 ; Rev. Henry P. Cutting, Nov. 1881 to Sept. 1884 ; Rev. Newton I. Jones, March 1885 to March 1887. The present officers of the church are : Pastor, Rev. Frederic A. Balcom ;

deacons, John Henry Shedd, Timothy Dwight Wood ; clerk, Mrs. Abby G. Boutelle ; treasurer, Miss Lucy E. Shedd ; church committee, George Hall, Miss Carrie L. Wood, Mrs. Lucy J. Smith, Miss Lucy E. Shedd ; superintendent of Sunday school, Newton C. Boutelle. The present parish officers are as follows : clerk, Alverse D. Lear ; treasurer, George Hall ; executive committee, Newton C. Boutelle, Arthur H. Hall, Abel Wood.

REV. FREDERIC A. BALCOM, the present pastor, was born in Worcester, Mass., January 26th, 1853. He prepared for college at the High School, Grafton, Mass., graduated from Williams College, in 1878 ; in September of that year he entered Yale Theological Seminary, completing his course of study there in the spring of 1881. He was pastor at West Hartland, Conn., from May 1881 to June 1884 ; at Holden, Mass., from June 1884 to Sept. 1886 ; teacher and preacher at Franconia, N. H., until April, 1887. He became acting pastor of this church July 1st, 1887.

## CHAPTER V.

### EDUCATIONAL.



IN his excellent sketch of the Public Schools, Dr. C. C. Field, who was for over forty years a member of the School Board, writes : "At this distant period, it is difficult to conceive, how great must have been the undertaking for them, (referring to the early settlers of Leominster,) to provide christian ministration and secular education for themselves and their children, while they were subduing the forests and cultivating the newly cleared fields for the maintenance of their families. Neither can we easily comprehend how much the present prosperity of our schools may depend upon the excellent school system, which, with unusual wisdom and foresight, they established from the beginning. Leominster is one of the few towns in the State, that was never divided into legal 'School Districts.' The town always managed its school affairs in its corporate capacity, built and located all the school-houses, and divided the money raised for the support of schools among the several schools as equally as circumstances would allow, after the subject had been considered and reported upon by a committee chosen for that purpose " The town, also, has

often been in advance of the State in matters of management and instruction in her Schools. In 1803 a "School Committee" was chosen, and the teachers required to keep registers, similar to those now used. In this Leominster anticipated State action by a quarter of a century. It is not within the scope of this work to give a history of the Schools. Of the past it is sufficient to say this; Money has always been voted freely; the general management has been committed to wise and faithful servants; in matters of grading, instruction and supervision Leominster has led, but seldom followed. For all this, she is largely indebted to the clear head and earnest devotion of Dr. C. C. Field, whose words, in substance, well describe the present of her schools; "And now, with our excellent system of conducting school affairs, with the High School maintained for the benefit of all the inhabitants, having two departments, five teachers and more than one hundred pupils, with the Grammar and Primary schools in the center, and the North Village, classified according to the scholars' attainments, and with mixed schools in the outskirts of the town, all with comfortable and commodious school rooms, furnished with every necessary apparatus, now we say, if the children of the present generation fail to acquire a good education, the fault must be theirs and their parents' and not because the town fails in any degree to supply all necessary means and facilities."

DR. CALEB CLESSON FIELD.

No sketch of the Public Schools would be at all complete that did not mention with honor the name of Dr. C. C. Field. To his sustained interest, watchful care and excellent judgment, the town is very largely indebted for its efficient school system; and especially for those progressive ideas of school management and instruction, for which Leominster has always been noted. That the system has been, in many ways, improved o



MR. CALIB CUSHMAN FIELD.





late, is only another way of saying, that the seeds which he planted and cultivated with so much care, have fruited since his death. There is a permanent element of eager progress and wise conservatism, in the spirit of school management here, of which Dr. Field is the author, and, of which record should be made to his lasting honor.

Caleb Clesson Field was born in Northfield, Mass., May 27th, 1810; he graduated at Amherst College with honor in the summer of 1833. After graduating he taught for some time in Concord, Mass., with marked success. In 1835 he began the study of medicine at a private school in Boston, but in June of the next year was compelled to leave the school on account of his health. He remained at his home in Northfield until 1837, studying with Dr. Dean of Greenfield. He then spent five months with the celebrated Dr. Twitchell of Keene, N. H. After this he attended a course of lectures at Dartmouth Medical School, where he received the degree of M. D. in 1837. Dr. Field came to Leominster in the same year and began the practice of his profession, which he continued with the growing favor of the community until his death, May, 1881.

Dr. Field was twice chosen to represent the town at the "General Court" and did faithful and honorable service there, especially as a member of the Committee on Education. In May, 1881, reduced in strength by the winter's work and especially by the severe requirements of his profession in the early spring, Dr. Field took a sudden cold which led to pneumonia, of which he died after a brief illness of five days. He was married three times. Only one of his children is living at the present time. When Dr. Field became a resident of Leominster, the Educational pulse of the State was just showing increasing strength, owing to the fresh, pure blood infused into the system by Horace Mann and others. The Board of

Education was formed and broad ideas of Universal Education were taking on form and flesh. In 1838 Dr. Field was elected a member of the School Committee, a position which he held for over forty-three years, serving much of the time as its chairman.

In his profession Dr. C. Caleb Field was highly esteemed by his brethren and served the community with skill and success. In his work for the Schools he wisely blended three things; an earnest love for the cause of education, a hearty welcome for all progress, and a firm holding on to that which is good. He was a friend to the teachers and loved the schools as if they were his own. He kept himself well informed of every advance in educational matters, and worked constantly, yet wisely for the best things. His educational ideas were never *old*, because they were always *growing*. The Schools of Leominster will always bear the marks of his wise oversight. As our modern life makes larger and larger demands on the individual, and the system of Public Instruction becomes more comprehensive, Special Supervision must and does take the place of the old way. But in the years before this was possible, any town was most fortunate, if, among her citizens there was one, who had the will and the ability to do for her Public Schools what Dr. Field did for the Schools of Leominster. The service was long, wise and faithful.

As a man, Dr. Field was highly esteemed in the community. His character grew in breadth and strength to the end. He left a lasting impression for good upon the town.

JAMES BENNETT.

In this connection, also, should be mentioned the name of James Bennett, Esq. His is an honorable name in Leominster, and especially in relation to her system of public instruction. A faithful member of the Leominster School Committee for many years, Mr. Bennett was, to the end of life, an earnest

and devoted friend of education. His time, his influence, his help in every way, was freely given to increase the efficiency of the Public Schools. In this field, as well as others, he did excellent and lasting work.

James Bennett was born in Lunenburg in 1805. He received his education in the Public Schools, in which, at a later period, he was a teacher, both in his native town and elsewhere. Not far from the year 1830 Mr. Bennett came to Leominster and was for a time employed in making combs, which was then the leading industry of the town. Some years later he began the insurance business, largely in consequence of an injury to his hand, received while engraving combs. He continued this business, until he was forced to give up all work on account of failing health.

From 1856 to 1880 Mr. Bennett was largely identified with the public interests of the town. In the Fall of the year first named, he was elected to represent the town at the "General Court." He served two terms with credit to himself and honor to the town. He was one of the first, if not the first, to be honored by a re-election. It was during his term in the Legislature, that Mr. Bennett was chosen a member of the Leominster School Committee—a position which he held for the next thirteen years. In many ways Mr. Bennett was well fitted for this office. His interest in the Schools was constant. He did not limit his labors. So far as he was able, and his ability exceeded that of most men, who do not make teaching a profession, he gave the teachers direct aid as well as encouragement. He did his work well and faithfully. In connection with the Public Library, also, Mr. Bennett did most efficient work for the town. It is enough to say that he found the Library a *small* collection of books of *small* value; but when he left the committee in 1880, on account of the growing infirmities of age, the library numbered 8000 volumes, had a

home of its own, and a fine reading room department attached. Of the labors necessary to bring this about Mr. Bennett bore his full share. He was an active, wise and influential member of the Committee. He had excellent qualifications for this work, and freely gave of his time to this service.

Mr. Bennett was also a great lover of history. He collected and left for use much valuable material for a local history of the different wars, for which Leominster furnished men. In many ways he had the tastes and instincts of a scholar, although he lacked the training of the schools. It is not possible here to give a full record of all his service, or of his fervent patriotism and quick interest in every good cause. It is enough to say, that Mr. Bennett lived a useful and worthy life, honorable to himself and helpful to the community. As a friend, a citizen and a man his character will bear close scrutiny. The better he is known the more he will be honored.

#### PRESENT ORGANIZATION OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The present Superintendent of Schools is Mr. I. Freeman Hall. The School Committee for 1888-9, are, Edward M. Rockwell, (Chairman,) George M. Powers, (Secretary,) Francis C. Bowen, Charles C. Foster, Henrietta M. Gates and Joel D. Miller. The teachers are as follows :

##### FIELD HIGH SCHOOL.

Joel D. Miller, (Principal); Henry S. Streeter, Sarah E. Richardson, Abby P. Churchill.

##### GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

Field School—Annie E. Kenefick, Sarah E. Brown, Annie Conlin, Hattie E. Nichols, Mabel Prevear, Angie Cogswell.

Bennett School—Laura H. Robbins, Marea B. Lewis.

Pierce School—Flora E. Kendall, Helen J. Bunce.

#### PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

Field School—Ellen E. Pitts, Helen B. Pierce, Carrie L. Willard, Harriet E. Pierce.

Bennett School—Josie A. Davis, Mattie A. Cole.

Pierce School—Bella G. O'Neil, Gertrude Rhoades.

#### UNGRADED SCHOOLS.

No. 2, Maple Avenue—Lizzie Reynolds.

No. 3, Main Street, North Leominster—Lulu Allen.

No. 4, Prospect Hill, North Leominster—Mary A. Railey.

No. 5, Central Street—May Willard.

No. 6, Pleasant Street—Nellie G. Woodbury.

No. 15, Cross Street—Sarah A. Going.

No. 16, Birch Street—Helen E. Heywood.

#### SPECIAL TEACHERS.

Martha D. Brown, (Singing.)

Henry S. Streeter, (Drawing).

#### SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Sketches of E. M. Rockwell (chairman), Geo. M. Powers (Secretary), and Mr. C. C. Foster will be found in connection with the account of the business in which each is engaged; and of J. D. Miller in connection with the High School.

FRANCIS C. BOWEN, was born in Stoneham, Mass., Jan. 31, 1834. He was educated in the Public Schools of his native town and Leominster. At the age of 18 he came to Leominster and entered the employ of his uncle, Manson D. Haws. Some years later he entered into company with Mr Haws, in the manufacture of Ladies Shoes, and continued a member of the firm for nine years. After leaving this busi-

ness, Mr. Bowen purchased the farm adjoining the family estate inherited by his wife and located almost in the village of North Leominster on the road towards Shirley. He has given special attention to the dairy business, furnishing butter for the Quincy Market, Boston. He is now serving his third year as a member of the School Committee.

In 1876 and 1877, Mr. Bowen represented the town in the Legislature. He has often been solicited to let his name be used for other town offices, but has refused permission. He was for many years the active and efficient Superintendent of the Unitarian Sunday School, and has always taken special interest in the affairs of that Society.

MRS. HENRIETTA M. GATES was born in Westminster, Mass., and educated in the Schools of that town and of Leominster. For seven years or more she was a teacher in the Public Schools of the State, teaching in Westminster, Gardner and Leominster. In 1867 she was married to Mr. Jonas W. Gates of Leominster, and has since made her home here.

In the Spring of 1880 Mrs. Gates was elected a member of the Library Committee and has served most of the time since as its Secretary and Treasurer. She was chosen a member of the School Board at the April Meeting in 1880 and is now serving in her third term on both these Committees. She gives valuable and conscientious service.

#### SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

ISAAC FREEMAN HALL, the present Superintendent of Schools, was born in Dennis, Mass., April 23, 1847. He received his education at Bridgewater Normal School, Phillips Academy, Andover and Dartmouth College, although he did not take the full College course.

Choosing teaching as a profession, it was Mr. Hall's good fortune to be Master of one of the Grammar Schools of Quincy,



E. M. ROCKWELL.



S. M. POWERS.



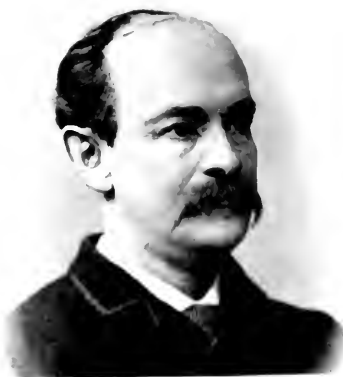
F. C. BOWEN.



C. C. FOSTER.



HENRIETTA M. ATI.



H. E. F. M. A.





Mass., while Col. Parker was Superintendent. From him he learned whatever of good the so-called "Quincy Method" contained. In 1880 Mr. Hall was elected Superintendent of Schools for Dedham, Mass., and began work there in September of that year. After a successful service of nearly five years, he resigned to take charge of the Schools of Leominster. June 13, 1872 he married Miss Amelia G. Mead of Quincy, Mass. They have four children, one son and three daughters.

### TEACHERS.

In selecting the names of teachers for brief mention in this place, length of service has been made the basis of choice.

MISS SARAH E. RICHARDSON is a native of Leominster and received her education in the Public Schools and by private instruction in the modern languages, from native teachers. She has taught in Leominster a large part of the time for the past twenty years or more. She began teaching in No. 2, and was for some five years a teacher in one of the primary schools in Gardner Hall. After this she was for a time assistant in the Clinton High School.

In 1876 Miss Richardson was elected assistant in the Field High School ; a position which she has filled and still fills to the entire acceptance of all concerned. During this time she has been absent from the school some three years on account of severe sickness.

MRS. ELLA M. WILDER, who was for so many years the successful principal of the Second Department of the High School, is a native of Lancaster and received her education there and in Leominster. In 1865 she began teaching in what is called No. 5. After three years service in this and other schools, she was elected as principal of the Second Department of the High School in 1868. This position she filled with eminent ability until the summer of 1886, when she

resigned to enter the Dry Goods business. She was one of Leominster's most successful teachers.

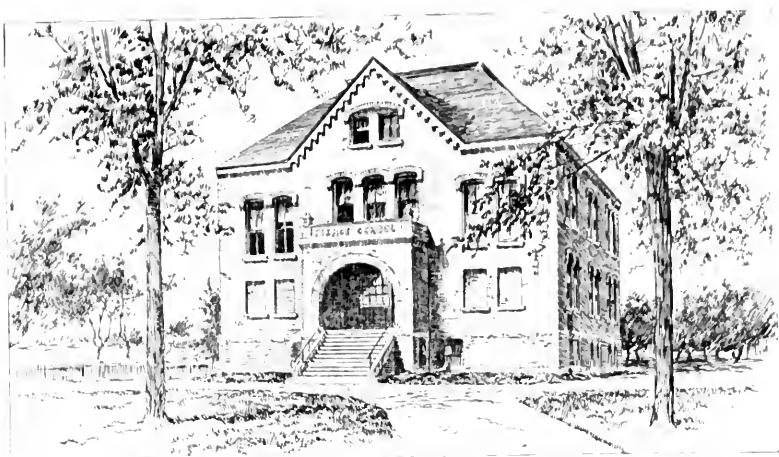
MRS. SARAH E. BROWN is a native of Lynn and received her education in the Public Schools of that city. Most of her long service as a teacher has been in the schools of this town, where she began work in what was then called No. 8, (now called the Bennett School,) something more than thirty years ago. Since then she has taught in the different grades of the Public Schools with continued and sustained success. For fourteen years past she has been principal of the A. and B. Grammar grades in the Field School.

MRS. HARRIET L. NICHOLS was born in Amesbury, and educated in her schools. She has been a teacher in the Public Schools of the State for more than twenty years. Her service in Leominster dates from about 1870, when she began teaching in what was at that time known as No. 8, (now the Bennett school). She has since taught in different schools and in different grades of the same schools, doing faithful and efficient service. She is now principal of the C. and D. Grammar grades in the Field School.

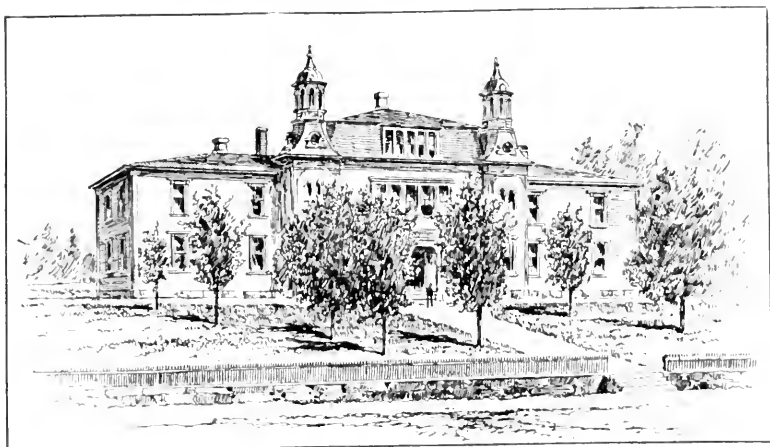
ELLEN E. PITTS is a native of Clinton, Mass. She was educated in Lancaster and at Middlebury, Vt. She began teaching in 1861, and in 1863 was elected to a position in the Leominster Schools. Her service has been continuous from that time. Miss Pitts is now principal of the Field Primary School, where she is doing efficient service.

HELEN B. PIERCE was born in Leominster and is a graduate of the High School. She has been in continuous service as a teacher here since 1874. More particular reference is made to Miss Pierce in the list of High School graduates.

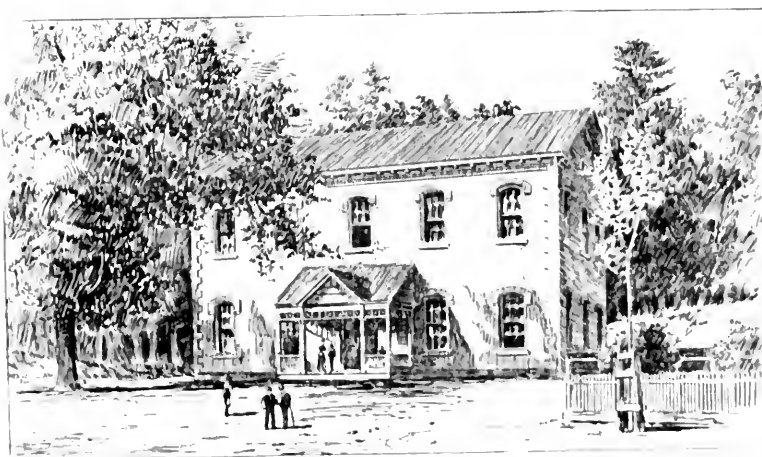
CYNTHIA P. BOUTELLE was born in Leominster, May 11th, 1848. She received her education, for the most part, in the Schools of her native town; but entered Bridgewater Normal



PIERCE SCHOOL, NORTH LEOMINSTER.



FIELD HIGH SCHOOL.



BENNETT SCHOOL, PLEASANT STREET



School in 1868 with the intention of taking the full course of study. At first sickness in the family at home, and later—when she returned to the work—her own ill health forced her to give up this undertaking.

Miss Boutelle was for many years one of Leominster's most painstaking and efficient teachers. She began her work in No. 6; but was for a long time in charge of what was then called No. 13, but is now the C. grade in the Field Grammar School. Her last work in the Schools was as assistant in the Second Department of the High School. Teaching was her profession, a work which she loved and in which she achieved success. She died at her home in Leominster, April, 1888.

MRS. JENNIE BURGESS (LOCKEY), who was connected with the Leominster Schools for nearly ten years, is a native of Westminster, Mass. She was educated in the schools of that town and of Brimfield, Mass. She began teaching in Oct. 1863, and taught in Brimfield, Warren, Westminster and Clinton, Mass. She began work in Leominster in the Fall of 1877, and after some years of successful teaching in different grades of schools, she was called to take charge of the music in Clinton. This work she was soon obliged to resign on account of ill health. After recovering her health Mrs. Burgess resumed work here as assistant in the Second Department of the High School. In this position she remained, combining with her work there, for a part of the time, the care of the music, until the summer of 1887, when she resigned and was married to Hon. John H. Locky of Leominster.

SARAH A. GOING is a native of Fitchburg, Mass., but received her education in the Public Schools of Worcester and Leominster. She has been connected with the Leominster Schools as teacher for nearly twenty years, and has rendered efficient service in several grades and in different parts of the town. For seven years she taught in what is now the Field Primary

School. This position she resigned and was for a brief time out of the service. She then taught at No. 3 and at North Leominster and is now in charge of the Cross Street School.

### THE FIELD HIGH SCHOOL.

The present High School was established in 1850; but it is really the offspring of the old "*Grammar School*," so-called, which Leominster maintained during most of the early years of her history. This "Grammar School" of the fathers, or as it was named in the quaint phrase of the time, "a man-School," was evidence of a feeling that the State should provide Schools where something more would be attempted than to teach the children to "READ, RIGHT AND SIFER AND NOTHING ELSE," as the records have it.

Very much of the efficiency of the High School is due to the wise oversight of Dr. C. C. Field, who, from the time of its organization until his death, made this School his constant care. In recognition of this service the Committee have named the High School and the other Schools connected, in his honor. In this connection the name of JONAS HENRY KENDALL should be mentioned. We give the excellent note of Dr. C. C. Field, as covering what should be said :

"No historic sketch, of the School system and School affairs of the town, can be complete, that does not record the name of Jonas Henry Kendall among the generous benefactors of the town. He died in 1862, a descendant of an ancient and honorable family of the town. By his will, besides minor bequests to individuals and a gift to the town of a fine bell for the Town House, and \$5000 for a hall and school room at North Leominster, he bequeathed to the town \$5000 for a free Public Library, the income of \$10,000 for the support of the High School, and the income of \$3000 for the benefit of the School at the North Village. It is particularly for his benefac-







tions to the cause of education that his name should be held in grateful remembrance for all time by all lovers of sound learning and generous culture."

The following list contains the names of all who have served as principals of the High School.

MR. JOSIAH S. PHILLIPS of Georgetown, May, 1850.

MR. ANDREW F. WILLARD of Lancaster, June, 1854.

MR. JASPER FISH of Middleton, Conn., March, 1855.

MR. D. H. GOODELL of Antrim, N. H., June 1856.

MR. CALEB BLODGETT, Jr., September 1856.

MR. HALSEY J. BOARDMAN, June 1858.

MR. GEORGE R. MARBLE of Fitchburg, July, 1859.

MR. D. B. HUBBARD, April 1862.

MR. SAMUEL H. VIRGIN of Chelsea, March 1864.

MR. M. P. STAFFORD of Cambridge, March 1866.

MR. G. G. PRATT of Cambridge, August 1866.

MR. O. H. STEARNS of Lunenburg, December, 1866.

REV. JOEL D. MILLER of Athol, April 1867.

JOEL D. MILLER, the present principal, was born in Athol, Oct. 10th, 1837. He fitted for college at Athol High School and Bernardston Academy, and graduated from Williams in 1864; was ordained in 1865; but has taught all the time since graduating; for the last twenty-one years in Leominster.

#### GRADUATES OF THE FIELD HIGH SCHOOL.

The course of study for the Field High School was not definitely arranged until 1868, but the two young men entering Harvard that year, finished a full course of classical study in the School and stand on the records as the first class. At about the same time, also, Mr. John M. Lockey fitted in the High School for the Agricultural College at Amherst.

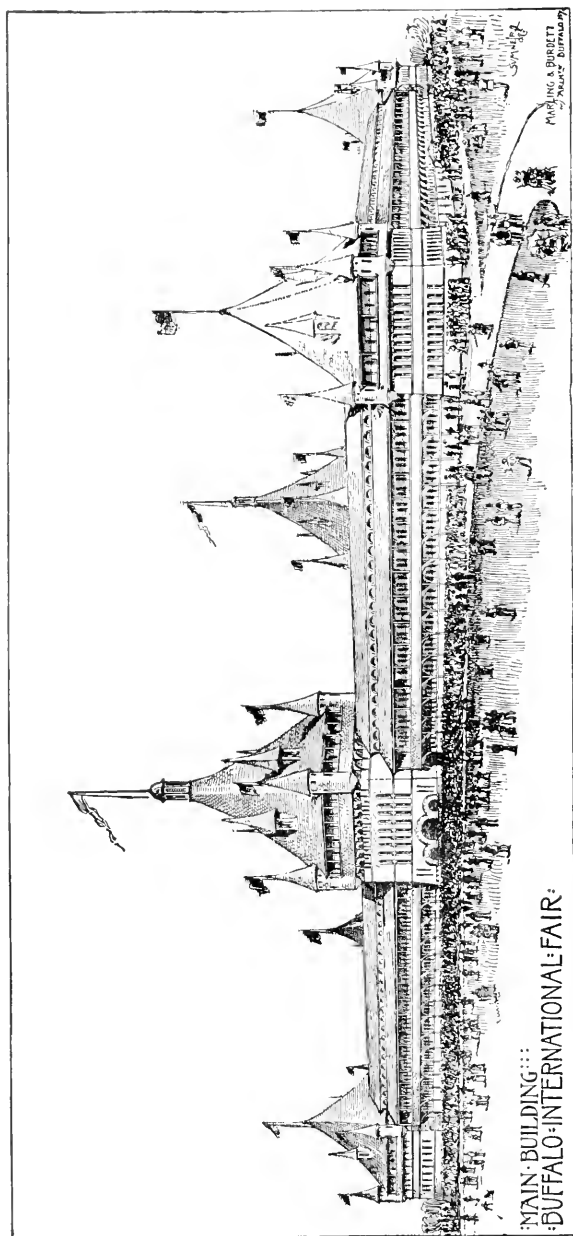
CLASS OF '68: William W. Carter, son of Solon and Lucretia J. Carter, graduated with honor at Harvard in the class of '72. He entered at once upon the profession of teaching, as

principal of the Englewood High School, Ill. He proved himself a very able teacher, and continued his work at Englewood until about a year ago, when he resigned and entered the Real Estate and Insurance business with Mr. H. B. Lewis of that city.

Alfred W. Field, second son of Dr. C. C. Field, graduated with honor at Harvard, at the age of 21, and at once began a special course in Chemistry at that Institution. A year later he was appointed acting Prof. of Chemistry in the absence of Prof. Jackson. He filled the position for two years, and was then appointed by the College to a Parker Scholarship, resident abroad for three years, with expenses paid. He had hardly begun work in Berlin when his health failed, and as his disease was pronounced "diabetes," he at once returned home. After a brave fight with this disease for full seven years, a part of which time he spent at Harvard, he died July 9th, 1882, at the residence of his aunt, Mrs. Merriman, at the old home place on Main street. He was a young man of unusual promise.

CLASS OF '70: This was the first regular class and consisted of five members. Helen M. Carter, (Lockey), daughter of Solon and Lucretia J. Carter, began to teach soon after graduating. After the resignation of Miss Clara Howland, who had successfully served for some years as assistant in the High School, Miss Carter was elected to fill her place. In this position she remained for two years or more, when she resigned and, Sept. 24th, 1874, was married to Mr. John M. Lockey. Their residence is Grove Avenue, Leominster, Mass. Ella F. Wood, graduated from the State Normal School at Framingham. She did not engage permanently in teaching. In 1881 she was married to Mr. Austin A. Smith. Their residence is Lindell Avenue, Leominster. Stella Farnsworth, a daughter of Mr. Charles Farnsworth of North Leominster, has spent the years since her graduation at her father's home. Ella Gates (Lewis,) was for some years a teacher in Leominster, and now





is Mrs. L. W. Lewis. Laura Merriam, a daughter of Chas. H. Merriam, Esq., graduated at the Oriad Institute at Worcester, Mass. She has been a successful teacher of music in the Public Schools, especially in the City of Fitchburg. Her residence is with her mother on Main street, Leominster.

CLASS OF '70. (July.) This class was graduated the same year as the first. This was necessary in the first arrangement of a regular course of study. Dora E. Wheeler, (Foster,) was for several years a successful teacher in the Leominster schools. In 1877 she was married to Mr. C. C. Foster, at that time master of one of the Grammar Schools of Chicopee, Mass. Their residence is now Grove Avenue, Leominster, Mass. Jennie Allen, daughter of Joel C. Allen, is now Mrs. Chas. S. Perry, and resides in Leominster. Eva S. Pierce (Farwell,) a daughter of Dr. G. W. Pierce, is now Mrs. Edwin C. Farwell and resides in Hyde Park, Mass. She was for a brief time a teacher in the Leominster Schools. Nellie Sprague has made her home, since leaving the High School, with her father, Mr. Nathan Sprague, of this town.

CLASS OF '71. Helen Burdett, the only member of this class, left Leominster soon after graduating and her home, at present, is in Dedham, Mass.

CLASS OF '72. Herbert C. Burdett, son of A. L. Burdett, graduated from Harvard in '78. After successful work as a teacher, he entered the office of Hartwell & Richardson, architects in Boston, and was afterwards, for about four years, with the celebrated artist, H. H. Richardson, Brookline, Mass. In February, 1887, he became associated with J. H. Marling, in the firm of Marling & Burdett, architects, Buffalo, New York. The International Fair Building, the largest, so far as known, in the world, and the finest, from an architectural point of view, of any ever constructed in this country, was recently built from their plans. The accompanying drawing of his building will

be interesting to the schoolmates and friends of Mr. Burdett here in his native town, showing, as it does, the advancement he has made in his chosen profession. Lizzie Balch has resided in Leominster most of the time since graduation. She is now a teacher of painting. Ada Putnam, (Wells), after leaving school, remained at the home of her father, Mr. Charles H. Putnam, until Nov. 11, 1873, when she was married to Mr. Frederick Wells of this town. After a lingering illness, Mrs. Wells died at her home Nov. 12, 1884. Burton J. Legate graduated at Harvard in 1877. He remained for one year at the college for a post-graduate course, and then was for a short time principal of one of the Grammar Schools of Hingham, Mass. He resigned to enter, as teacher, one of the best private schools in the city of Boston, where he is still teaching with very marked success. E. P. Merriam graduated from Harvard in 1877. He was for a time in the census department at Washington, D. C. He died suddenly at Cottage City, Aug. 17, 1875. Kittie Field, daughter of Dr. C. C. Field, entered the State Normal School at Framingham, but was taken sick during her course there, and after a lingering illness, died at her father's house, Sept. 13, 1875. She was a young lady of much promise. Anna L. Niles removed from Leominster with the family. She has since been married, and now resides at Lawrence, Mass. Lizzie Pye left Leominster with the family soon after her class graduated, and her present residence, if she is alive, is not known to the writer. Lizzie Tilton, (Shapley) was for some years a teacher in the Leominster schools. In 1876 she was married to Mr. C. H. Shapley of this town. Their home is on Main street. Alice L. Woodworth, is now Mrs. Ledru Walker and resides in Worcester, Mass. Anna R. Hall, (Kittredge) was married in 1875 to Monroe H. Kittredge and resides in Leominster.

CLASS OF '73. Porter R. Stratton graduated from Bos-

ton University in 1878, and has since entered the ministry of the Methodist Church. He was stationed at So. Royalston in 1882-3, at Brookfield, in 1884-5-6. His present appointment is Oxford, Mass. In 1880 he married Annie M. Jewett, adopted daughter of Dea. Charles Jewett of this town. Annie M. Jewett, (Stratton,) (see above.) Hattie Tyler attended the training course for teachers, connected with Field High School, and afterwards the N. E. Conservatory, Boston. She was for twelve years a teacher in the Public Schools. Ten years in Leominster, teaching in District No. 3, one year, in the Field Primary one year, and the remaining eight years in the Kendall school building at North Leominster. Emma Page, (Pierce,) married as above, and is now a resident of North Leominster. Alma Batchelder, (Clapp,) taught in Leominster in 1873-4, and was married in 1877 to Mr. F. A. Clapp. Thos. Kenefick graduated from Harvard in 1877. He studied law at the Harvard Law School and is now in the successful practice of his profession at Palmer, Mass. Herbert B. Whitney, son of Dea. F. A. Whitney, graduated at Harvard in 1877. He studied medicine at the Harvard Medical School, and graduated with special honor. He spent 1881-2 in the Boston City Hospital, and the next two years in Germany. On his return he began the practice of his profession, under most favorable conditions, in the City of Boston; but he was soon compelled to go West on account of his health. He is now a practising physician in Boulder, Colorado. Carrie Woods has spent the time since her class graduated at her home in Leominster Centre.

CLASS OF 74. Emma Stearns, daughter of Henry and Mary A. Stearns, died at her father's home, Leominster, after an illness of some months. Nellie B. Pierce, daughter of Dr. G. W. Pierce, has taught in Leominster most of the time since graduating, and is now doing excellent work in the fourth grade of the Field Primary School.



CLASS OF '75. Carrie M. Evans has taught eleven years in the Public Schools of the State. For one year, she was in Leominster; the remaining ten have been spent in Merrimac, where she is still teaching. Rosa M. Marshall (Walker), married Frank W. Walker, and now resides in Babylon, L. I. Emma Moors, adopted daughter of Loren L. and Emily F. Moors, has remained in Leominster, since graduating.

CLASS OF '76. Mary Ann Porter, (Whitney) daughter of L. W. Porter, was married to Frank J. Whitney of the next class, in 1879. Her home has been in Boulder City, Colorado. Alice A. Adams was a teacher for a brief time, but has made her home with her sister, Mrs. N. C. Boutelle, North Leominster, during much of the time since graduating. Elizabeth L. Seaver, (Blanchard) was for some time a teacher in Leominster. She married Frederick Blanchard and now resides in California. Helen A. Legate was for several years a successful teacher in the Leominster schools, closing her work as assistant in the 2d Dep't. of the Field High School. She now has charge of a large school in Concord, Mass. Fanny P. Gates has made her home in Leominster, Mass., since graduating. Carrie A. Nutter has remained in Leominster and has been for much of the time employed in the store now owned by Mr. L. F. Burrage. Mary Anna Merriam taught for a brief time and is now Mrs. Leonard C. King. She resides in Fitchburg. Dana Richardson studied at Harvard as a special student, and graduated at the Harvard Medical School. He was for a time in No. Leominster, but is now settled at Brockton.

CLASS OF '77. Leonard C. King has been for some years a clerk in the hardware store of I. C. Wright, Fitchburg. He married Mary A. Merriam of the last class. Albert F. Clark removed from town soon after graduating. His present residence is in Philadelphia, Penn. Elmer F. Legate studied at the Worcester Academy and is now a farmer in Leominster.

Frank J. Whitney has been forced to live West most of the time since graduating, on account of a strong tendency to lung difficulties. He has been engaged in business in Colorado. He married Mary A. Porter, as above. Chas. Simpson graduated at Boston University; for some years he followed the profession of teaching and then entered John Hopkins' University for a more thorough preparation for his work. His present residence cannot be given. Clifton A. Crocker, son of Dea. S. S. Crocker, engaged at once in the Paper Business at Holyoke, Mass. He is a member of The Crocker M'fg. Co., and a successful business man. Nellie F. Goodhue left town soon after graduating and her present residence has not been ascertained. Mary L. Derby, daughter of Benjamin Derby, has been a resident of Leominster since graduating. Anna M. Martin was for a time a teacher in Leominster, but inherited consumption soon brought on sickness and death. Fanny G. Houghton has remained at her home in Leominster. Lillian M. Stratton was for several years a very successful primary teacher in Leominster, and is now doing excellent work in the same grade of schools in Watertown, Mass. Erminie E. Woodworth is now and has been a resident of Leominster. Laurabella Clarke studied music a few years after graduation. She has been teaching in the public schools of western North Carolina and Northern Georgia during the past five years, and is at present teaching in Macon County, North Carolina. Residence, Highlands, N. C.

CLASS OF '78. Mary Eveline Darling, daughter of Joseph S. Darling, now resides in Keene, N. H. Grace Lincoln Darling, daughter of Joseph S. Darling, is taking the regular Scientific course at Wellesley College. Carrie L. Willard has been, for most of the time since '78, a teacher in Leominster. She is doing excellent work in the third primary grade.

CLASS OF '79. Kittie A. Wilder graduated from the Worcester Normal School, and taught two years in the Webster Grammar School. She was married in Feb. 1886, to R. L. Chandler and is now residing in Sterling. Annie M. Wilder, since graduation, has studied music, and taught the same in Leominster and Clinton. She is now organist at the Orthodox Congregational Church, Leominster. Residence, Sterling. Fannie L. Williams, (Fiske,) married Mr. Frank F. Fiske, of North Leominster, where their residence now is. Marrian B. Clough (Burdett) graduated at Smith College, taught for some time, and is now Mrs. W. C. Burdett of this town. Their residence is on Orchard St. Alice M. Gates has nearly completed the course of instruction at the State Normal School, Worcester, having entered in Sept., 1881. She taught school in Leominster the fall of 1879, and following winter; in Lunenburg in the spring of 1880, and again in Leominster a year, beginning 1883. Mary McCann attended the State Normal School, Worcester, from 1881 to 1884. She engaged in primary work in Clinton and Leominster, in which she was so successful as to be called to the State Normal School, New Britain, Conn., where she is now teaching. When not teaching, she makes her home in Leominster. Jerry George Foley graduated at the Boston College and is now teaching in the Martin School of that city. William Chase Burdett, son of A. L. Burdett, is Sec'y of F. A. Whitney Carriage Co. He married Marrian B. Clough. John William Walsh, while in the High School, commenced reading law in the office of Hamilton Mayo. He entered Holy Cross College, Worcester, but at the end of one year was obliged by impaired health to give up taking a full course. As soon as his health was sufficiently restored, he entered the Law Department of Boston University, where he graduated in 1880. He was admitted to the Suffolk Bar and began practice in Fitchburg the same year, in partnership, un-

til 1886, with John W. Corcoran of Clinton, when, at that time, he became associated with Thomas F. Gallagher, the partnership continuing until the death of Mr. Walsh, Aug. 12th, 1887. Ralph Gardner Morse attended Chickering Institute after graduating and has been Sec'y of the Hecla Powder Co. since 1883. Married Susie F. Colby Nov. 22d, 1883.

CLASS OF '80. George Baleb Pierce is in the telephone business. His present residence is Boston, Mass. Charles H. Pratt is a civil engineer in employ of the Midland R. R. Co. of Florida. Marietta Harrington is a music teacher and organist. She resides in Leominster. Nellie M. Seaver taught for several years in Leominster, and is now in National City, California. Annie Conlin began teaching in Leominster in 1883. She has charge of the B grade class in the Field Grammar School and is doing faithful and honorable service. Mattie A. Cole began teaching in 1881. She has taught in Henniker, N. H., Sterling, Ashburnham, Leominster, and Concord, Mass. She is now teaching at the Bennett School. She has marked success in primary work. Anna L. Legate (Powers) taught for some time after graduating and is now Mrs. Ezra W. Powers. Julia E. Sanders resides at North Leominster. Abbie J. Carter (Watson) married Elmer E. Watson, Nov. 25th, 1885. They live at North Leominster.

CLASS OF '81. Kate Allen is teacher of music in Leominster. Hattie L. Fuller, (Lawrence,) daughter of William H. Fuller, married Cecil Lawrence and lives in Leominster. Lizzie A. Hall has her home in Leominster. Mary F. Kenefick learned the millinery business in Leominster. At present she is with R. H. White, Boston. Grace A. Legate, daughter of Franklin Legate, taught a short time. She died at her home in Leominster. Nellie F. Maynard (Harrington) married Fred A. Harrington and lives in Leominster. Sadie M. Merriam, daughter of Gardner Merriam, has a home in Leom-

inster. Carrie Whitney (Morse) was in the employ of R. B. Andrews & Co. two and a half years: She was married Jan. 24th, 1884, to C. E. Morse; residence, Leominster. Clifton W. Bates graduated at Dartmouth in 1885. He commenced teaching the same year, and is now Professor of Modern Languages at Brooklyn, N. Y. Charles N. B. Wheeler graduated at Harvard in 1887, and has spent the time since in teaching. He is now assistant in a private school, Duxbury, Mass.

CLASS OF '82. Ida P. Smith taught in Leominster in 1883, and is still a resident of this town. Ella F. Holt remained at home in North Leominster for some time, but is now married to Mr. William A. Garno of Fitchburg. Nellie B. Rice resides at North Leominster. Kate E. Rugg taught in Westminster in 1883, and now resides at North Leominster. Anna L. Tisdale (Pierce) married Edward W. Pierce and resides in town. Arthur T. Wilder taught for a brief time and is now engaged in farming; residence, Sterling, Mass.

2D CLASS OF '82. Mabel Prevear, daughter of Edward Prevear, is at present a teacher in the Field Grammar School. Mary S. Welcome, daughter of Charles Welcome died at her home April 30, 1884. Jennie F. Brown, (Tolman), married Mr. P. S. Tolman and resides in Leominster. Florence T. Morse, (Putnam), daughter of George F. Morse, married Wm. A. Putnam. Their home is on West street. Carrie C. Lane, daughter of Howard M. Lane, has remained at home since graduating. Jennie M. Richardson, daughter of Alan-son Richardson, taught in Leominster for some years. She is now in her second year's study at Smith College. Annie I. Wheelock, daughter of George H. Wheelock, was a teacher in the Leominster Schools till the Fall of 1887, and is now spending her second year at Smith College. Lillian J. Richardson, daughter of L. A. Richardson, has remained at home since graduating. She assists her father in his Studio. Hattie



RESIDENCE OF M. D. HAWS, NORTH LEOMINSTER.



RESIDENCE OF E. C. HAMILTON, LAMPY EAR STREET.



Pierce, daughter of Dr. G. W. Pierce, is a successful primary teacher. She studied in the Training Class for Teachers, taught first in Attleboro', Mass., and is now teaching in the first grade of the Field Primary School. Bertha Buss remains in Leominster. Annie J. Hall, daughter of George Hall, spent a year at Bradford Academy, and now resides at North Leominster. Minnie B. Stearns graduated at the State Normal School, Worcester, Mass., and has taught at Townsend, and Longmeadow, Mass. She is now teaching at Longmeadow. Annie S. Harwood, (Chase), daughter of N. Harwood, Esq., married Wm. H. Chase, Sept. 28, 1887. They live in Leominster. Emma Wilder is at her home in Sterling, Mass. Lucy Poland graduated at the Worcester Normal School and is engaged in teaching. Hattie M. Divol studied music and is now teaching in Leominster. Jennie Gates remains at her home in North Leominster. Alice Conant, (Meade,) married Howard E. Meade. They live in Leominster. Frank Urquhart graduated at Dartmouth in '87. He manifested much ability as a writer and has chosen the profession of journalism. He is at work on the Newark Journal, N. J.

CLASS OF '84. Harry Howard Boyden graduated at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 1887. He remained for the next year as assistant in the Laboratory. He resides at Leominster. Frank T. Harvey graduated at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute in '87, and has since entered the Medical School, N. Y. city. Andrew Lincoln Houghton is a machinist in Leominster. Russell H. Colby graduated at The Boston Institute of Technology in '87, and is now in the employ of the State Board of Health, as analyst. Ida L. Willard is book-keeper for Valpey & Anthony at their manufactory, Leominster, Mass. Ida M. Stevens has her home in Leominster. Emma E. Adams, (Johnson), was a member of the Training Class for Teachers. She taught some time in Leom-



inster. Nov. 23 she married George W. Johnson. Nellie C. Foster taught two terms at Loudon, N. H., and nine at Newport, N. H. Her residence is now in Leominster, Mass. Minnie L. Joy resides at her home in Leominster. Emma Fuller, daughter of Wm. H. Fuller, is now a teacher of music in Leominster. Gertrude Louise Rhoades studied in the Training Class and is now a member of the Leominster corps of Teachers.

CLASS OF '85. Lora S. Bowen, (Corkum), married July 12, '88, to David F. Corkum. Their residence is in Leominster. Alice G. Burdett, daughter of A. L. Burdett, Esq., has remained at home since graduating. Mabel A. Cole, (Wheeler), daughter of G. H. Cole, married, March 27, '88, to Bertrand Thorpe Wheeler, residence, Cedar Grove, Dorchester, Mass. Cora H. Coolidge graduated at Cushing Academy, Ashburnham, Mass., and this year has entered Smith College. Her home is in Ashburnham. Gertrude H. Felton is now book-keeper at the Woolen mill of Edward M. Rockwell. Minnie G. Field resides at North Leominster. Mary A. Frost, daughter of Sumner M. Frost, is now pursuing the regular course at Smith college. Her home is in Leominster. Annie J. Kenefick taught two years in Maynard, Mass., and is now assistant in the 2d Department of the Field High School. Carrie L. Miller spent the first year after graduating in study, a part of the second in teaching in the High School. She died at her home April 23, 1887. Kate M. Polley makes her home in Leominster. Anna L. Stearns lives at her uncle's home, North Leominster. Clinton T. Boutelle has remained at Leominster since his graduation. Edward A. Darling has spent some time at school since graduating and is now in Dorchester, Mass.

CLASS OF '86. Of the members of this class the following have remained in Leominster: E. Louise Allen, Sadie W.

Crockett, Mary A. Railey, Helen G. Rice, May W. Willard, Harry W. Putney, Clarence J. Reed, and Fred E. Upham. Reed studied at a Commercial School in Boston, and is now with A. B. Merrill, and Upham is in the employ of D. C. Nickerson. The names of Miss Allen, Miss Railey, and Miss Willard appear in the list of teachers. Grace B. Savage is at her father's home in Watertown, Mass. M. Crissie Shedd is taking a four years' course at Framingham Normal School; Fred E. Morse has spent two years at Lawrence University, Appleton, Wis., and is now in Boston University; Raymond P. Walker is now in the second year of his theological studies at Boston University; Alfred A. Wheeler has this year entered Harvard College.

CLASS OF '87. Of the members of this class, Mary E. Burgess is at Cushing Academy; E. Harry Rockwell and Allen C. Crocker at the Polytechnic Institute, Worcester; Edward Earl at the Institute of Technology, Boston; Edgar D. Shaw at Phillips Academy, Exeter, N. H.; and Appleton H. Pierce at Harvard College. Clara L. Richardson, Winnifred A. Richardson, Jennie E. Killelea, L. Lizzie Reynolds, and Minnie E. Sullivan are in Leominster. (The name of Miss Reynolds appears in the list of teachers, and Miss Sullivan is organist at St. Leo's Church). Lucius W. Richardson studied at Bryant & Stratton's, and is now in Boston.

CLASS OF '88. Mattie E. Cutting and Mabel H. Goodale have entered the State Normal School, Worcester; Hattie A. Rugg is fitting for Smith College; Edith M. Smith is book-keeper in her father's office, North Leominster; Ruth K. Bursage is at her home in Shirley; Gertrude M. Carter is studying in the Training Class. Carrie L. Felton, second daughter of Mr. Samuel Felton, was taken sick in the early summer and died, after a short but painful illness, at her father's home, on Grove Avenue. She expected to enter the Normal School and

gave promise of doing excellent work as a teacher. Alice M. Elleck remains at home. Louis A. Wheeler is preparing for a further course of study in one of the colleges.

### PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Leominster has a large and well-selected Library. The interest of the people in matters of this kind dates back to 1763, when what was known as the Social Library was purchased. It consisted of 100 books and was kept for fifty years in the study of Rev. Francis Gardner. Other collections of books were made by different Societies and School wards as the years went by, but in 1856 all these were merged in one and accepted by the Town as the beginning of a Public Library. From that time until now the town has made an annual appropriation for the support of the Library. The meeting of the first library committee was held at the office of J. C. Allen, May 21st, 1856. J. C. Allen was the first Secretary, D. R. Haynes the first Treasurer, and Thomas Tinker the first Librarian. The Library was kept in Mr. Tinker's store, next door to what is now A. L. Williams & Co.'s grocery store until 1863, when it was removed to the office of C. W. Carter in a small building where Wood's block now stands. Mr. Carter acting as librarian for one year. In 1864 the town received a bequest of \$5000 from the estate of J. Henry Kendall for the founding of a Public Library. The Town Hall was raised and the present library room was fitted up, the library taking possession in April, 1864. From this time it has increased regularly, both in the number of books and in public favor. Mr. James M. Bronson has been librarian since 1864. The library now contains about ten thousand volumes.

In 1866 a Reading Room Association was formed, and in 1869 this branch of work was taken in charge by the Town and made a part of the library. The Reading Room is now sup-



JAMES BENNETT



HENRY W. HORTON



JOHN M. HORTON



JOHN M. HORTON



JOHN M. HORTON



JOHN M. HORTON



plied with a large number of daily and weekly papers, monthlies and other periodicals. Few towns of the size of Leominster have as equally good Library and Reading Room.

DR. GEORGE W. PIERCE.

No mention of the Library would seem finished, which did not give prominence to the name of Dr. George W. Pierce. He was for many years an active and energetic member of the Committee in charge of its affairs. He had a great love for books and a clear understanding of their value. It is true that his habits of reading and his natural tendency of mind, led him to study science more than literature ; but he had a good knowledge of the best authors and his advice in the selection of books was most valuable. The service, which he gave, was not one in name only, but one of loving regard for the growth and usefulness of the Library as well. Nothing which promised good results in this direction was foreign to his thought or his heart. Hence Dr. Pierce was one of the first to plan and work for a reading room in connection with the Library. He saw plainly how great would be the influence for good of this department in the coming years. It is not too much to say that the town is very largely indebted to the wise and faithful service of Dr. Pierce in connection with its Public Library. The same is also true of the Museum, in which, from the start, he was greatly interested.

Dr. George W. Pierce was born at West Boylston, Mass., Oct. 15th, 1816. He was educated at Leicester Academy and graduated at Harvard Medical School, in the class of '45. For a short time he practised his profession in Bolton, but came to Leominster in 1847, where he resided until his death in May, 1886. He was twice married. In 1851, to a Miss Damaris Balch, of a family widely connected in Leominster ; and in 1869, to Mrs. Charlotte H. Carter of Lowell, Mass. Four children by the first marriage, and one by the last, survive him.

Dr. Pierce belonged to Leominster. He came here as a young man, married from this people, reared and educated his children here, was the family physician in many homes, and was for almost forty years a vital part of this whole community. He lived and rejoiced in its atmosphere, gloried in its prosperity, planned for its material, intellectual and moral growth, and labored with no divided heart and no stinted wisdom for its best and largest interests. When he died he was more than an old resident; he was, in the truest sense, a citizen of Leominster. No plan looking to her good could be devised of which he was not a part. His services were freely given and always effective for the best and most permanent improvements in town. And yet, Dr. Pierce was at his best, where most men fail, *i. e.* in his own home. He could make, and did make, a home in the best sense of the word. No better thing could be said of him than this: "He was always his children's hero." Dr. Pierce was a worthy representative of a noble profession, ranking high among his brethren; a man kind, indulgent and helpful in his home life; a gentleman by nature and practice; a citizen who desired and planned for the best things, and who gave his services when and where he could, without hope of reward or desire for recognition. His will always be an honored name in the history of Leominster.

### THE MUSEUM.

The museum owes its origin to the zealous efforts of Rev. Wm. J. Batt with the co-operation of James Bennett, Esq., and Dr. G. W. Pierce, whose interest in geological and antiquarian research caused them to render valuable aid. In Dec. 1871 the museum was established, five trustees were chosen, Rev. Wm. J. Batt, Dr. C. C. Field, Joel Smith, J. C. Allen and T. A. Hills, who, together with the library committee, G. W. Pierce, Rev. E. A. Horton, S. L. White, Rev. J. D. Miller and

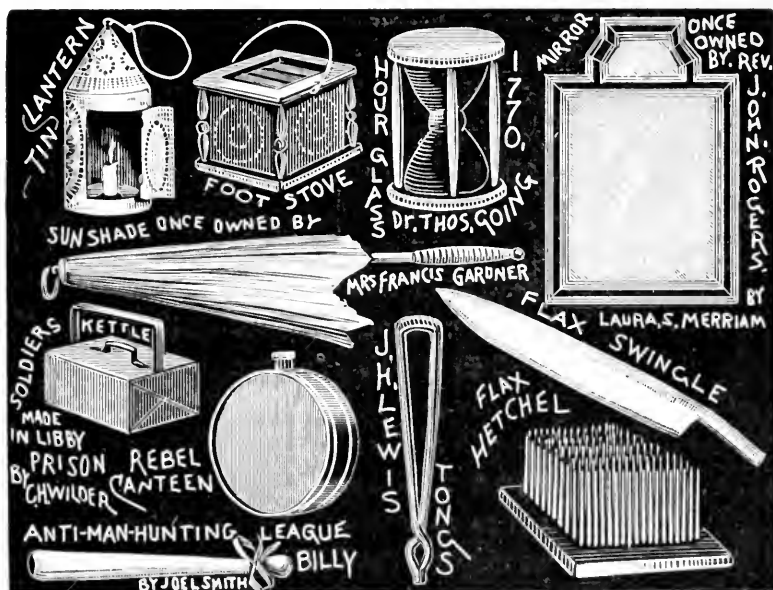


GEORGE W. PIERCE, M. D.





Wm. H. Reed, constituted what was known as the Leominster Museum Board. About five hundred dollars was contributed by public spirited citizens and mostly expended in cases and material, forming the nucleus of the present collection, by a committee consisting of Joel Smith, James Bennett and N. C. Boutelle. In 1885, with the consent of the trustees, the town "voted to accept of the museum as a part of the public library and provide for its care, and the Library Committee appointed E. G. Davis, curator. This collection contains many interesting specimens and much valuable historical material.



GROUP OF RELICS.

In the matter of contributions, also, there has been much interest shown by Mr. D. W. Salisbury, Mr. Bennett, Dr. Pierce, and many others who have been liberal givers. Among late valuable contributions should be mentioned \$2000 from the estate of Capt. Leonard Burrage. Both Library and Museum are growing in popular favor.

## CHAPTER VI.

### PATRIOTISM.



LL through its history as a town, Leominster has been noted for its military spirit. In the old French and Indian war in 1757, a full company of soldiers was furnished to go to the relief of Fort William and Henry, and October 9th, 1760, they all returned and united with their friends in a general Thanksgiving over the total reduction of Canada.

During the Revolutionary War there were fully three hundred men from Leominster, enlisted for various terms of service, from minute men to regular soldiers for three years, a surplus of thirteen men beyond the full quotas under the various calls. The records of meetings on the Town books leave no doubt as to the patriotism of the inhabitants.

As early as March 3d, 1766, an address to the people of Boston, who were enduring great hardships on account of the unjust laws of the British Parliament, was adopted in Town Meeting, expressing clearly their views on the subject of civil and religious liberty, and closing with the following paragraph: "*We must, we can, and we will be free. We cannot*





part with our creation right. We are obliged to forever assert it, as it is our glory to be in subjection to that Supreme Being, that formed us free."

In September, 1768, a committee of three was chosen to meet others in Boston, to consider the dangerous situation of the country.

In January, 1773, several votes were passed in Town Meeting in approbation of the doings of the town of Boston in regard to Public Grievances.

In August, 1774, a committee of correspondence was chosen. These committees, in the various towns, were a channel of intelligence and a bond of union of great assistance to the cause and led to the appointment of Deputies to meet in General Congress.

After the passage of the act of Parliament for shutting up the Port of Boston, the committee, appointed by the town, recommended among other measures, "That we will heartily endeavor, as much as in us lies, to awaken and stir up every person to a thorough sense of the real certainty there now is of America being reduced to the most abject slavery and poverty; and the danger there is of the loss of our religious as well as our civil rights and privileges, unless we unitedly endeavor, by a steady and manly opposition, to prevent it."

After all other means, to preserve the rights of freemen, had been resorted to in vain, and it became necessary to take up arms in defence of their liberties, the inhabitants of Leominster were as prompt to act as they had been to resolve. At the first alarm, April 19th, 1775, fifteen men left their respective homes and marched to Lexington. A full company was on the same day enlisted into the Continental Service for eight months, and placed under the command of Col. Asa Whitecomb, on Prospect Hill in Cambridge. Nearly all were from this town, with the following Leominster officers: Captain, David

Wilder ; Lieutenant, Timothy Boutelle ; Sergeants, William Warner, Josiah Carter and Peter Joslin ; Corporals, Levi Warner, Samuel Buss and James Butler ; Drummer, Thomas Rogers ; Fifer, Abijah Haskell. On the 15th of July, 1776, the town voted Independency of Great Britain, and a copy of the Declaration by Congress was entered on the Town Records.

Throughout the struggle the inhabitants complied with all the requirements made upon them, being frequently called upon by the State, in emergencies, to furnish men on short enlistments. On one occasion, in 1777, in addition to numerous volunteers, a whole company went under command of Capt. John Joslin to assist in preventing the march of Gen. Burgoyne's army from Canada. They were in season to engage in the battle of Bennington, and at the first fire received from the enemy, Thomas Joslin, the youngest brother of the Captain, was shot through the heart.

In 1777, Congress issued a call for three years men, and the town voted to raise £500 to pay those who should enlist. We are unable to give the names of all who entered the service under this call, but among the number were : John Joslin, John Buss, Levi Phelps, Edward Phelps, Levi Blood, Caleb Wood, Peter Joslin, Thomas Robbins, Samuel Jones, Samuel Houghton, Samuel Rogers, and probably five or six others. They participated in several battles, and with the exception of Peter Joslin and Samuel Rogers, lived to return home at the expiration of their term of service. Most of them lived to a good old age, four of them remaining in town. John Buss died in 1845 and Edward Phelps, the last survivor, in 1851.

It is a matter worthy of record that during the Revolution, in all the one hundred and fifty-three families in town, not a person was accused, or even suspected, of being a Tory or unfriendly to the cause, and that during the war the inhabitants

contributed \$30,000 and 7534 lbs. of beef and a lot of blankets for men in the service.

#### SHAYS' REBELLION.

The town had sustained itself nobly through the Revolution, furnishing more than its proportion of men and means, and in common with the rest of the Commonwealth, its people were greatly involved in debt. There was very little hard money in circulation and the Continental Currency had become greatly depreciated, but notwithstanding these unfavorable circumstances, the men of this town, as a rule, sustained their credit and eventually paid their debts, although some few sold their farms for paper money, and when it became worthless, were ruined.

Many other towns were less fortunate than ours, especially in Worcester County. Taxes were high and lands and goods were levied upon and sacrificed for debts. At last the dissatisfaction and feeling against the Courts developed into open rebellion, in which crisis this town maintained its integrity by sustaining the Government. The leader of this insurrection, one Daniel Shays, in 1786 assembled his armed mob to stop the Courts, and sent a message to the judges of the Supreme Court, then about to hold its session at Springfield, ordering them not to open their court or indict the rebels. About the same time a body of men had collected to stop the Court of Common Pleas at Worcester. At this juncture Leominster sent out a whole company with officers for the relief of the Courts at Worcester, and also a part of a company with two superior officers, Ensign John Buss and Major (afterward Col.) Timothy Boutelle, to assist in dispersing a camp of the Shayites at Petersham. It was an intensely cold night and many of the soldiers were frozen on the march. Colonel Boutelle led the advance guard. Arriving in Petersham before sunrise, he sur-



prised the rebels in their beds. They surrendered without resistance.

At Springfield the insurgeants, headed by Shays, approached the Court House, and passing beyond a forbidden point, were fired upon by the militia men twice without effect. At the third volley three of the insurgents fell dead and others were wounded. The rest retreated without firing a gun. Thus ended the Shays' Rebellion. Col. Boutelle was accorded great credit for the tact and skill exhibited in breaking up the camp at Petersham, and for many years held command of the regiment. Ensign Buss was soon promoted and was for several years Captain of the South company in this town.

#### WAR OF 1812.

In the war of 1812, a complete company of artillery under command of Captain Joseph Tenney was sent from here to South Boston to help protect the harbor of Boston from the British, who had determined upon laying waste the whole American coast from Maine to Georgia. The company remained on duty as long as its services were required, when it returned, and years afterwards each soldier received a pension from the government in recognition of this service.

#### WAR OF THE REBELLION.

In the War of the Rebellion Leominster furnished 404 men, which was in excess of her full quota under the different calls, and came out with a considerable surplus to her credit. The town was always prompt in furnishing requisitions from the government for military supplies and in the voluntary contributions of articles for the relief of her men in the hospitals, and after battles, and since the war, has not forgotten the men who served her in the days of peril, but has been ever ready to relieve their necessities and provide for their families. Leom-

inster was largely represented in the 15th, 21st, 23d, 25th, 32d, 36th, 53d and 57th regiments, and had representatives in every branch of the service. There were few of the great battles in which Leominster men did not take an honorable part.

It is a fact greatly to be regretted, that so much of the military history of this town is lost or scattered; that, during the War of the Rebellion there was no local paper to chronicle the doings of her citizens at home and in the field. The town records and a few published orations give only a *faint* reflection of the patriotic enthusiasm which pervaded the community and made this town second to no other of its size in the State in its support of the government.

The early scenes of the rebellion are still fresh in the minds of many who were living at that time: The Secession of the Southern States—the attack on Fort Sumter—the call of President Lincoln for seventy-five thousand volunteers—the attack on the 6th Mass., while passing through Baltimore—the mass meetings of citizens—the intense excitement of that first Sunday (in war times) with its services of a patriotic nature—the enlisting of volunteers—their parades and drills—their impatience at not being called into service, and their final departure for the seat of war—the tender parting of soldiers with their friends (to many the last on earth)—and then the news of Ball's Bluff with its terrible slaughter, and of subsequent battles and campaigns in all of which the friends and families of Leominster soldiers were anxiously interested.

At the time of the breaking out of the rebellion there was one company of militia in town, The Old Military Co. A. of Leominster. This company had kept up its organization from the time the "order to raise" was issued from headquarters in May, 1789. For more than 60 years it had been known as the Leominster Artillery, but after the war of 1812 was changed to Infantry, and previous to the rebellion was in good condi-

tion. Within one week after the first requisition of the President they were thoroughly drilled, equipped and ready to march. When the order was promulgated to receive none but those who would go for three years, and the maximum should be 101, they filled the company to that number and were soon after ordered into camp at Worcester. Before leaving town Capt. Rockwood was presented with a sword by citizens of the town, the Rev. Eli Fay making the presentation speech. Few realized upon that occasion that this company of young men were leaving for three long years of hardship and suffering, and that many of their number would be killed in battle, become the victims of rebel brutality in Southern prison pens, be wounded or maimed for life or die from disease contracted in the army.

To show the patriotic spirit of the times, we give the following extracts from Mr. Fay's speech: "Captain Rockwood: Your fellow citizens have thought it proper to make some expression of their appreciation of your willingness to leave the quiet scenes in which you have so long mingled and to serve your race, your country, and your God, on the battlefield; and they have chosen me as their representative, to express, as words can but feebly express, the satisfaction we feel that you are willing to go and to lead a goodly number of our fellow citizens to the field of mortal combat (if need be) in defense of the liberties of our country. \* \* \* Sir: We have given you our men—our young men—we have given them understanding the awful hazard of war, and I charge you, before God, to bring them back to us alive, or bring back to our distressed country, in order and liberty, the price of their blood. And as a slight testimonial of the profound sympathy which the community feel for you in view of the trying and responsible duties of your post, they have requested me to present this sword to you. Sir: Minister of the gospel of peace, as I am, yet under the circumstances, I cheerfully comply with that request. \* \*



REV. ELI FAY, D. D.



CAPT. G. W. ROCKWOOD.



CAPT. J. A. STRATTON.



CAPT. G. W. BROWN



Take this sword as an expression of our sympathy for you and an assurance that our best wishes go with you; and, by your regard for our town—by the honor of our commonwealth—by your pride of country—by our sense of the justice of our cause—by the remembrance of our revolutionary sires—by the price paid for our liberties—by the stars and stripes that float over us—by the shattered flag-staff of Fort Sumter—by the blood of our murdered citizens—by the value of our free institutions—and by the love of God, do your whole duty, and may the arm of the Omnipotent uphold you!”

It should be said, in this connection, that by word and deed, in season and out of season, Rev. Mr. Fay labored to help on the good work. He was a host in himself, fired by true patriotism, he gave his hand and his heart to the cause of his country and rendered efficient service in the business of recruiting.

Rev. George S. Ball, the brave Chaplain of the 21st Regiment, also accomplished much by patriotic speeches and direct personal influence. The town voted appropriations of money and serviceable uniforms and other clothing, and individuals gave liberally. The Messrs. Burrage of Boston, Johnson C., Alvah A., and Charles H., natives of Leominster, gave \$810 for the purchase of equipments. In addition to this, Mr. A. A. Burrage offered the sum of \$100 to any one of the Burrage name, or any one connected with him by blood or marriage, who should enlist within a specified time. These are only a few of the many instances that might be mentioned. The ladies of the town formed a “Soldier’s Aid Society” and carried out a systematic plan of operations, preparing and sending to the soldiers in camp such things as would contribute to their comfort.

Upon the breaking out of war the Leominster Band, recruited to 24 pieces, was accepted and went as the First Regi-

ment Band of Mass. V. M. They went into camp about the first of May, and were fifteen months in active service; co-workers with the soldiers, doing their share of picket duty, and caring for the wounded. Upon the discharge of the Regimental Bands of the Army, by act of Congress, in July, 1862, the Leominster Band returned home. But several of their number enlisted in the regular service.

We have not the space in this book to give even a brief history of the different regiments having Leominster men in their ranks, but some idea of the dangers and hardships of the four years' struggle may be gained by the record of those who died during that time. After the principal battles of the war, in which Leominster men were engaged, the town sent prominent citizens to the front to look after the dead and wounded, as well as the sick, taking with them articles of wearing apparel and comforts of various kinds, and they were often privileged to witness, and afterwards report to friends at home, instances of patient endurance and heroism.

### ROLL OF HONOR.

To the earnest and persistent efforts of the late James Bennett, Esq., in searching for information, we are indebted for the following facts in connection with each of the forty-eight soldiers whose names are enscribed on the Soldiers' Monument.

#### FRONT TABLET.

CORPORAL ANDREW W. COWDREV, the first martyr from Leominster, was severely wounded at Ball's Bluff, Oct. 21st, and died of his wounds, Nov. 3d, 1861, at Poolesville hospital, Maryland shore. He left a wife and two children, and was buried in Leominster with military honors.

GEORGE H. GALLUP, son of James B. Gallup, was taken sick with typhoid fever at Savage Station, left behind at Chickahom-

iny, taken prisoner by the rebels, and confined in Libby Prison. With only the floor for his bed, he received neither care nor medicine for twenty-seven days. When exchanged he was in a weak and reduced condition, and had an attack of diphtheria, and died of suffocation from falling into a foul vault at the hospital, Fortress Monroe, Aug. 6th, 1862.

CORPORAL FRANKLIN GARDNER was one of the "color guard," and at the battle of Antietam, Sept. 17th, took up the colors from the third color bearer, who had been shot dead at his side. He received three balls; the first passed through a limb, the second through his thigh, the third in his stomach. Regardless of these wounds he managed to keep the flag waving until the next guard took it. From Wednesday morning, Sept. 17th, until Friday morning of the same week, he lay within the enemy's lines. When our men went to bury the dead and remove the wounded, he was placed in the hospital at Sharpsburg, and removed Sept. 25th, to Patent Office hospital, Washington, where he died Oct. 6th, 1862.

CAPT. HANS PETER JORGENSEN, a native of Copenhagen, Denmark, enlisted as Orderly Sergeant. At Ball's Bluff he was wounded in the right arm. He was detailed to recruit, but afterwards promoted to Second Lieutenant, First Lieutenant, and Oct. 28th, 1862, to Captain, in command of his old Company A, and was killed.

Capt. Jorgensen had seen service in the campaigns of the Danish Army and was twice wounded while fighting the Prussians at Schleswig and Holstein; once in the arm by a ball and on the head by a sabre. "He was not a native of this country. He could not have been drafted, yet so keen was his appreciation of the great interests at stake, that he is reported in the *Worcester Spy* to have said: 'Freedom is the same everywhere and I cheerfully give my life in its defense. I would give more if I had it,' or words to that effect."



CORPORAL CHARLES A. LAMB, son of Albert Lamb, was taken prisoner at Ball's Bluff. At Libby Prison he sickened and died of congestion of the lungs, Nov. 25th, 1861.

SERGEANT EDWARD B. ROLLINS, after fighting bravely at Ball's Bluff, succeeded in crossing the river safely, but on looking back to the Virginia shore he saw some of his comrades, who were not yet taken prisoners. He procured a skiff, rowed it over amid the whistling of balls, took in his passengers, and landed them in safety. Two years later, he sent his wife a beautifully wrought card with the names of eleven hard fought battles in which he had been engaged. He left a space for one more, and wrote, that after one more battle, he should probably come home. He went into his twelfth battle, Gettysburg, and was killed July 2d, 1863. He left a wife and four small children.

CAPT. CHARLES H. STEVENS enlisted as Fourth Sergeant. He was promoted to 2d Lieut., 1st Lieut., and, July 4th, 1863, to Captain. He was wounded in the foot at Savage Station, and in the leg, while supporting our batteries at Gettysburg. At Bristow Station, Oct. 15th, 1863, after an hour's hard fighting, the enemy gave way; but Capt. Stevens was severely wounded, and died while being carried to the hospital. In his honor Post 53, G. A. R., was named.

JOHN GOULD SNOW, only son of Thomas S. Snow, was at Ball's Bluff and in six other battles. He died of chronic diarrhoea, Dec. 10, 1863, at Fairfax hospital, Va.

SERGEANT JOHN Q. A. TRIPP was in seventeen battles. He was wounded at Gettysburg, captured at Petersburg, taken to Andersonville, parolled, entered our lines exhausted by starvation, cold, and sickness, and died in a Baltimore hospital, Mar. 19th, 1864. He was buried with military honors at Leominster, March 23d, 1864.

SERGEANT GEORGE E. WILDER, son of George Wilder, was



A. W. Caldwell,	C. H. Galt,	T. Gorman,	Capt. Ferguson,	C. A. Fox,	T. B. Hays,
Capt. C. H. Steyer,	J. G. Smith,	J. Q. A. Tupper,	G. F. Walter,	C. B. West,	R. H. Cannon,
J. L. Crosby,	W. H. Johnson,	J. M. Mellon,	J. F. Marshall,	J. C. Reeder,	C. H. Smith,
Lieut. A. R. Gibson,	A. H. Cook,	C. H. DePue,	H. K. Dewey,	T. Gentry,	T. R. Gentry,
A. B. Osburn,	J. T. O'Connell,	A. L. Waller,	J. M. DePue,	D. L. Lantry,	T. A. L. B.
J. B. Foster,	T. Hays,	A. W. Lonsdale,	M. L. Johnson,	T. M. Davis,	T. L. Johnson,



shot in the head at the battle near Spottsylvania, and died May 17th, 1864.

CHARLES B. WOOD was drowned March 20th, 1862, while relieving guard on a dark, stormy night, on the banks of the Chesapeake and Ohio canal.

WILLIAM L. WHITNEY, private, died of fever at the hospital in Washington.

## RIGHT TABLET.

GEO. W. DIVOLL, 7th Mass. Battery, died in the hospital in New Orleans of chronic diarrhœa, Sept. 21st, 1864.

HORACE R. BARKER, private in 21st Reg., Co. D, died at Newbern, N. C., of typhoid fever, April 19, 1862.

RUFUS H. CARTER, 21st Reg., Co. D, was mustered out at Blaine's Cross Roads, East Tennessee, Dec. 31, 1863. He re-enlisted in the Veteran Volunteers and was killed at Petersburg, Va., by Sharpshooters, Sept. 30, 1864. †

ALBERT F. CREED, 21st Reg., died at Newbern, of typhoid fever, May 21, 1862.

JOHN F. CROSBY, 23d Reg., Co. D, was wounded by the enemy at the battle of Kingston, and afterwards was shot in the back by the accidental discharge of a musket in the hands of a comrade. He was helped to an ambulance and was four weeks in the hospital at Newbern. He was sent north by steamer, but died in New York Harbor, April 22, 1865. He was buried in Leominster, with military honors.

SERGEANT ARTEMAS S. FARWELL, first enlisted in a New Hampshire Regiment. He served his time, re-enlisted in the 25th Mass., Co. F, and died of diphtheria, Nov. 23d, 1862. He was buried in Leominster.

FRANK GEORGE, 3d Reg., Mass. Cavalry, Co. D, was taken prisoner in the Shenandoah Valley, with his entire Company, captured by two companies of rebels in United States uniforms and carrying the Union Flag. They stripped them of their

clothing, and marched them on foot 5 days without rations. He was first imprisoned at Belle Isle, then at Andersonville, and afterwards hurried away to Salisbury, upon the approach of Sherman's army, where he died of starvation, Dec. 6, 1864. He left a family.

GEORGE A. HOUGHTON, 21st Reg., Co. I., died of ship-fever at Hatteras Inlet, on board the transport ship "Northerner," Jan. 20, 1862. He was buried in the sand on the beach by chaplain, Geo. S. Ball, and a band of sailors who volunteered to go ashore in a violent gale.

WILLIAM H. JOHNSON, 21st Reg., Co. II, died of typhoid fever, in the hospital at Newbern, June 18, 1862. He left a wife.

CAPT. JAMES MASTERS MELLE, 1st Mass., Co. A, re-enlisted Oct. 18, 1863, as 1st Lieut., 3d North Carolina, Colored Vols., and was killed at Wilmington, N. C., Sept. 23, 1865. His commission as Captain arrived two days after his death.

JAMES E. MARSHALL, 32d Reg., Co. I, was shot dead near Laurel Hill, Va., May 12, 1864.

JOHN C. READY, 1st Reg., Co. A, died of wounds received at the second battle of Fair Oaks, Va., July 6, 1862.

CHARLES H. SINCLAIR, 21st Reg., Co. A, was killed at Newbern, March 14, 1862.

#### LEFT TABLET.

FIRST LIEUT. ALFRED R. GLOVER, 53d Reg., Co. C, was killed while attacking the works at Port Hudson, June 14, 1863.

CORPORAL ALBERT H. CARTER, 36 Reg., Co. A, was shot dead near Spottsylvania, in the battle of the Wilderness, May 6, 1864.

SERGEANT CHARLES H. DERBY, 36th Reg., Co. A, was killed at Hanover Court House, Va.

HENRY K. DERBY, had not been assigned to Reg. and Co.,

when he was taken sick at Fort Warren. He came home on a furlough, and died of pneumonia at his father's home, Henry Derby's, Jan. 5th, 1862.

CORPORAL LEONARD GOODRICH, 36th Reg., Co. A, died of typhoid fever at Washington, Dec. 31st, 1862.

SERGEANT LEROY R. GALLUP, 36th Reg., Co. A, was killed by the premature bursting of one of our own shells while lying in front of and supporting our batteries at Campbell's Station, near Knoxville, Tenn. He left a wife and two children.

ROLAND H. MOORE, 36th Reg., Co. C, died of chronic diarrhœa, at Rialston Station, Va., Dec. 6, 1863.

ANDREW B. OSBORN, 36th Reg., Co. A, was discharged April 22, 1863, for disability. He re-enlisted in the 16th Mass. Battery, March 11, 1864, and died of heart disease, at Camp Augue, gen. hospital, Alexandria, Va., Jan. 31, 1865. He left a wife and two children. He was buried in Leominster with military honors.

JOHN F. OWENS, 5th Reg., Co. E, died of diphtheria, in camp, at Readville, April 13, 1865. He was buried in Leominster, with military honors. The Sons of Temperance, of which order he was a member, joined in the service.

JOHN SCHOUW, a native of Amsterdam, Holland, 29th Reg., Co. H, died of dysentery on board of a transport ship, at the wharf, Cairo, Ill., Aug. 20, 1863. He left a wife and one child.

ALBERT LAFAYETTE WILDER, 3d Reg., Co. D, (Cavalry), was taken prisoner at the same time and place, and under the same circumstances as his brother-in-law, Frank George. He weighed 180 pounds when taken; died of starvation about the time Frank George died.

## BACK TABLE.

JOHN McDONOUGH, 26th Reg., Co. F, was killed at the

battle of Antietam, September 17th, 1862.

DANIEL BUTTERFIELD, 53d Reg., Co. C, died of erysipelas, at St. Louis, Mo., May 4, 1862.

ELI A. ELLICK, Veteran Reserves, Jan. 1, 1864, was killed at Petersburg, Va., June 17th, 1865.

IRA B. FOSTER, 53d Reg., Co. C, was wounded in the neck, near Port Hudson. He went to the rear and had his wound bound with cotton to stop the flow of blood. As it was early in the morning, he returned and fought the rest of the day, which was his last day's service. He was sent to Baton Rouge Hospital, where he died. He left a wife and child.

JOHN FERGUSON,, 53d Reg., Co. C., died of chronic diarrhœa, in the hospital at New Orleans, June 15, 1863. He left a wife.

EDMUND HARDY, 53d Reg. died of diarrhœa at Breasha City, May 30, 1863. He left a wife.

ADELBERT W. JOHNSON, 53d Reg., Co. C, was severely wounded at Port Hudson, from the effects of which he died July 11, 1863.

MARTIN LUTHER JORDAN, 57th Reg., Co. H., died of pneumonia in the hospital at Washington, June 9, 1864.

SERGEANT JAMES MUNFORD LEWIS, five major 53d Reg. Co. C, came home sick and died at home before he was mustered out of the service. He left a wife.

LEWIS RICHARDSON, 57th Reg., Co. H, was killed at the battle of the Wilderness, May 6th, 1864.

GEORGE THOMPSON, 53d Reg., Co. A.

EUGENE SULLIVAN, 36th Reg., Co. A, died of fever, at Nicholsonville, Ky., Sept. 1, 1863.

CAPT. LEONARD WOOD was for many years an active part of the social, religious and business life of Leominster. Before the rebellion he was engaged in the provision business of North Leominster, but in August, 1861, he was mustered into the ser-

vice as 1st Lieutenant of Co. K, 15th Reg. M. V. M., and participated in its campaigns and engagements.

October 22d, 1861, Capt. Moses Gaskell having been killed in the battle of Ball's Bluff, Lieut. Wood was promoted to take his place. At this battle he had displayed great courage, rising from a sick bed that he might take part in the engagement. After serving through the Peninsular, Antietam and Fredericksburg campaigns, as one of the bravest officers in a regiment which saw perhaps as much and as hard service as any in the army, he resigned his commission and was discharged January 16, 1863.

After his return from the army Capt. Wood resumed his business in North Leominster, and under the ministry of the Rev. Wm. J. Batt, of the Orthodox Congregational Society, united with that church becoming at once a prominent and useful member. He served the church as deacon, the Sunday-school as teacher and superintendent, and the Society as parish committee. He gave liberally and to the full measure of his means, and was active in securing funds from others for the building of the present church edifice. Later on he was the soul of the movement which resulted in the formation of the church in North Leominster, and also gave liberally of his means and energies towards their present house of worship. Besides his church work he was also an active worker in the temperance cause.

In addition to his North Leominster business, Capt. Wood was for some time a member of the firm of Hallett & Wood, provision dealers, at the market now owned by Conant & Morse. In 1879, desiring to carry on a more extensive business, he moved to Bridgeport, Conn., and with Mr. Hallett began the wholesale meat business which he followed up to the time of his death, Feb. 6, 1886.

The funeral services were held in the North Leominster



church, Rev. Wm. J. Batt having charge of the services, assisted by Rev. Robert G. S. McNeille, pastor of the church at Bridgeport, of which Capt. Wood was a deacon, Rev. Mr. Jones of the North Leominster church, and Rev. Richard Meredith of the Orthodox church.

The relations between Mr. Batt and Deacon Wood were unusually tender and fraternal. At the time and ever after Mr. Wood determined to seek a higher and better life, he had the sympathy and encouragement of his pastor, and between them there existed the closest and most sacred intimacy. In his remarks Mr. Batt described the life, character, work and even the peculiarities of Deacon Wood, showing that through all these years, in Bridgeport as well as Leominster, he was the same earnest, enthusiastic, whole-souled, uncompromising friend of temperance, morality and religion, and had the same interest in the well being of his fellow men that characterized his new life in this town.

A short time before his death, at a re-union of the Old 15th Regiment, Capt. Wood, in responding to "Antietam", closed his remarks by throwing back his coat and showing a fragment of the standard of his regiment containing two stars shot from it at the battle of Antietam and which he had preserved through all these years, said: "Boys: when I am laid to rest I hope to have these go with me." This wish was regarded and those honored emblems were pinned on his breast over his heart; a last and most fitting tribute to a brave officer and a true man.

CAPT. LUCIEN A. COOK was born in Leominster, August 6th, 1838. He was educated in his native town, attending the Leominster High School.

At the breaking out of the war in 1861, he was a member of the Leominster Light Infantry, and with that organization was mustered into the service of the United States July 12th,



C. W. F. F. F. F.



T. L. L. L. L. L.



A. T. A. L. L.



A. A. A. A. A.



1861. The Company was designated as Co. A, 15th Regiment, Mass. Volunteers. He was in all the actions in which that gallant regiment participated, until his capture at Antietam. He was taken to Libby Prison, Richmond, Va., and after a few weeks was parolled and carried to Camp Paroll, Annapolis, Md., and shortly after came home as a parolled prisoner. On account of injuries received at the time of his capture, a severe attack of fever and ague, and general disability, incident to severe campaigns and prison life, he received an honorable discharge Dec. 31st, 1862. During the year 1863 he resided a short time in Brookfield, Conn., and after his return to Leominster, received notice that he had been drafted to fill the quota of Brookfield. He at once reported to the authorities in Conn., but was rejected. It being his wish to do such military duty as lay in his power, he enlisted in a Band organized by P. S. Gilmore, for service in the gulf States, Nov. 23d, 1863. This Band was known as the 1st Brigade Band, and a part of the time was assigned to the 81st Reg. U. S. Colored Infantry, Department of the Gulf. By reason of failing health he was discharged at New Orleans, July 20th, 1865.

July 9th, 1868, he, with others, organized Post 53, G. A. R. and was elected its first Commander.

In the Spring of 1868, feeling that Leominster should be represented in the State Militia, he, with several other veterans of the late war, in twenty-four hours, recruited a company of 60 men, who were shortly after mustered into the service of the State for a term of three years, as Co. K, 10th Reg., M. V. M. At the election of officers he was unanimously chosen Captain. While this company was under his command, he was one of the most earnest, faithful, and eminently successful Company Commanders in the State. During this time the Leominster Light Infantry, as an organization, was an honor to the State Militia, and to the town of Leominster. This

office he continued to hold until his death, which occurred March 13th, 1873. He was buried with the military honors due his rank, the funeral being largely attended by the officers of the Regiment. Capt. Cook was twice married. His first wife was Ellen H. Green of Ashby, Mass., who died April 6, 1869. March 6, 1873, he was married to Belinda Whitcomb of this town.

CAPT. E. A. BENNETT, son of Major Thomas S. Bennett, was born in Leominster, Jan. 1st, 1844.

Previous to the war he was connected with the State Militia, and was also interested in the fire department, being Foreman of Torrent Engine Company in its palmiest days.

Upon the breaking out of the rebellion he enlisted, July 12, 1861, with his old Company A, in the 15th Reg., for three years, but owing to poor health he received his discharge from the service, Feb. 3d, 1863, and returned home. He subsequently re-enlisted in the 4th Mass. Cavalry, and was made Quarter-master Sergeant. On the morning of the 4th of Feb. 1865, he was captured by the enemy and remained in Andersonville prison until the 20th of March following, when he was parolled and sent to Vicksburg. Soon after this he returned home. Upon the re-organization of the Leominster Light Infantry as Co. K, 10th Reg., he was elected First Lieutenant, and upon the death of Capt. Cook, succeeded to the command of the company. He afterwards felt obliged to resign his commission on account of his health.

For four years Captain Bennett was associated with Aldrich Cook in the comb business until 1876, when he was obliged to give up his business. March 5, 1877, he died at his home on West street. Captain Bennett was only 18 years of age when he entered the army, and a life of rare promise seemed open before him. He was an active and public spirited young man, genial and impulsive, and was liked by all who knew him

Particularly was this true with the young men of the place, among whom he was very popular. His death was keenly felt in the community where his social qualities made for him so many personal friends among all classes in town.

Capt. Bennett was married Oct. 23d, 1873, to Hannah B. Allen, daughter of the late Joel C. Allen, who survives him.

Many gallant soldiers went from Leominster, served faithfully during the war, and still survive. We select, in addition to some who are mentioned elsewhere, as worthy representatives, Col. Joslin, and Captains, Rockwood and Brown.

COL. GEORGE C. JOSLIN was the youngest son of Major Elias Joslin, and brother of Mr. Charles L. Joslin, and Mrs. W. B. Tisdale of this town, and was born in Leominster, August 19, 1839. Previous to the war he removed to Worcester, and while there he belonged to the City Guards. At the breaking out of the war, Major Devens recruited a three-months battalion of Rifles, and Mr. Joslin accompanied them as 2d Lieutenant. Before the expiration of their service Major Devens was transferred to the command of the 15th Reg., and Lieut. Joslin was appointed Captain of Co. 1. He participated in the campaigns and battles of his regiment until, at Antietam, he was wounded, and came home. As soon as he was sufficiently recovered he rejoined his regiment. He was surprised and captured while on a skirmishing expedition, and after being confined in several rebel prisons, was held for a time, with other officers, as hostages, at Charlestown, S. C., and upon being exchanged, returned to his regiment. At the battle of Gettysburg, Col. Ward was killed and Col. Joslin assumed command during the rest of the battle, and remained in command until the regiment was mustered out. Soon after the war Col. Joslin went to Chicago, but afterwards returned to Boston, where he received an appointment as clerk in the custom house. He was afterwards promoted to Assistant Ap-

praiser of the dry goods department, which position he now holds.

CAPTAIN GEORGE W. ROCKWOOD, for several years previous to the war, was in the militia service. He was thoroughly posted in military matters and extensively known as a good disciplinarian. As Commander of Co. A, 15th Reg., he went to the war, was captured at Ball's Bluff, and was one of several commissioned officers who were held as hostages for the same number of rebel privateers of equal rank, who had been captured by the U. S. Government. After his release he rejoined his regiment, remaining with it until Jan. 26, 1863, when he resigned his commission. The officers and men who served under Capt. Rockwood, bore testimony to his bravery and efficiency, and no officer stands higher in the estimation of surviving comrades than he. For several years he has resided in Marlboro', Mass., where, together with his son, he has been engaged in the ornamental painting business.

CAPTAIN G. W. BROWN, was a native of this town, went as a private in Co. A, 15th Reg., was promoted through the different grades, until he was made Captain, and came home in command of the company after a three years' service. Immediately after the close of the war, Capt. Brown proceeded to Colorado, which was then a territory, and engaged successfully in the cattle raising business. He is now a prominent citizen of Longmont, Boulder Co., Colorado.

### THE SOLDIERS' MONUMENT.

The project of a Soldier's Monument was first brought to a decisive point in the spring of 1866, when the requisite funds were appropriated by the town and a committee empowered to carry a plan into effect. This committee consisted of Messrs. John H. Lockey, Leonard Burrage, Joel Smith, Solon A. Carter and William Tilton.

It was at first proposed to erect the monument "within the enclosure on the common;" but in December the present location "on that part of the common in front of the hotel," (the hotel then standing on the corner of Pleasant street) was decided upon and an extra appropriation made for the additional expense of grading. The monument, with its present surroundings, is so well represented in the illustration that little need be said by way of description. It is of Quincy granite, rising 23 1-2 feet from a base, 6 feet and 10 inches square, bearing, on the first stone above the base, inscriptions in raised letters, on four sides, Gettysburg, Port Hudson, Ball's Bluff and Knoxville. These were the more important battles in which Leominster soldiers took a part. Above this stone is the die, upon the four sides of which are enscribed the names of Leominster's fallen heroes, and above the die a handsome obelisk with stars represented near the top.

The monument was completed and formally dedicated Sept. 12th, 1867. It was an unusually fine day; nearly every store and building was decorated with flags and bunting. The monument was wreathed with laurel and profusely decked with flowers, and the town was thronged with visitors. The dedicatory exercises took place on the common, in the afternoon. The procession (headed by the Leominster Brass Band) under command of Capt. Leonard Wood, Marshal of the day, was composed of Company K, 10th Reg., M. V. M., and past soldiers of this and neighboring towns. Among those who occupied seats on the platform were several members of the old Leominster Artillery, who served in the war of 1812, among whom may be mentioned Col. Elias Joslin, Phineas Burditt, Oliver Barrett, William Boutelle, David Tenney, and Gilman Robbins.

The exercises were opened with music by the band, followed by the singing of an original hymn (words and music by C.



H. Smith, organist at the Unitarian Church), sung by the Choral Club, composed of young men and women belonging to the different religious societies. Rev. W. J. Batt of the Orthodox Congregational Church, read selections of scripture, and Rev. Horace Parker, of Ashby, offered prayer. Mr. Joel Smith, who acted as chairman in the absence (from illness) of Mr. J. H. Lockey, then introduced James Bennett, Esq., who read an original poem of a patriotic character. The ninth stanza of this poem commenced with the words :

*“Bring pure, white flowers, a laurel wreath to twine  
Around this shaft of sculptured stone”*

while the author was reading this verse, a bevy of young maidens, dressed in white, advanced to the monument and decked it with red, white and blue garlands. After the reading of the poem, came the patriotic address by the orator of the day, Rev. Geo. S. Ball of Upton, a native of Leominster and chaplain during the war. An original hymn, written by James Bennett, Esq., was then sung by the Choral Club. Rev. Rufus P. Stebbins was next called upon and gave a speech, interspersed with old memories, and closed with a poem replete with humor and pathos. The exercises closed with an interesting and unexpected floral tribute (by the young ladies who had decorated the monument) to the following named gentlemen : Rev. Geo. S. Ball, Rev. Rufus P. Stebbins, Gen. Kimball, Capt. Joel A. Stratton, Capt. Rockwood, James Bennett and Solon A. Carter.

In 1880, through the generosity of Mr. J. Wallace Lines, who left a bequest of \$100 towards erecting a fence around the monument, and upon the appropriation of \$500 for the same purpose by the town, the curbing was raised, the fence put in place and the land graded. Messrs. Joel Smith, T. J. Ames, and W. H. Lovering were the committee having it in charge.

## CHARLES H. STEVENS POST 53, G. A. R.

The first movement to establish an encampment in Leominster was made in the Autumn of 1867 by five old veterans : L. A. Cook, A. J. Parker, F. W. Polley, E. A. Bennett, and Charles H. Wilder ; but, from a lack of enthusiasm among their old comrades, the idea was abandoned, and the five just mentioned made application to, and joined, Post 19 of Fitchburg, which had been chartered but a few months. This lack of interest was due to the fact that a previous organization had

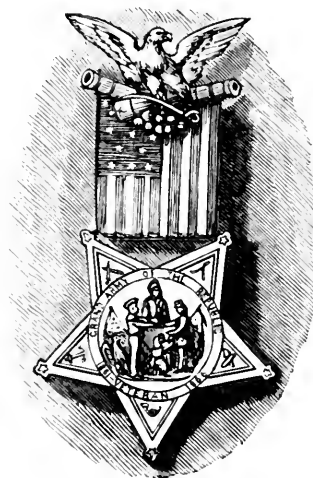
been started and died a premature death, causing many to distrust any organization formed in the interests of old soldiers.

The first decoration services under the auspices of the G. A. R. were held upon "Commemoration day," 1868, by a detachment from Post 19, consisting of the five comrades from this town. In June, 1868, Aldrich Cook, C. B. Flagg, J. G. Eaton, Wm. A. Burrage, J. F. Chaffin, and Geo. A. Browne

joined Post 19, and soon after measures were taken to form a Leominster Post, resulting in the granting of a charter bearing date of June 13th, 1868, with the names of the above mentioned comrades as charter members.

The Post was organized July 9th, at the Armory of Co. K, in the upper story of "Gardner Hall." The officers chosen and installed at that time were : Commander, Lucien A. Cook ; S. V. C., Wm. A. Burrage ; J. V. C., F. W. Polley ; Adj., J. F. Chaffin ; Q. M., A. J. Parker ; Sergt. Maj., C. B. Flagg ; Q. M. S., G. A. Browne.

In October the Post moved to "Brittain Hall," formerly the



old Armory building, that stood for years upon the "Old Training Field," and was used jointly by the "Artillery" and "Rifle" Companies. Subsequently it was removed to the spot where P. W. Newell's building now stands and a story put underneath the original, or, upper story, which was occupied by the Post. Several years after it was moved to its present location and occupied by comrade J. J. Railey. After several removals the Post at last encamped in its present attractive quarters. Its history, in the meantime, has been one of good work done, and its record such as to secure the hearty sympathy and co-operation of the community in its efforts.

Probably the most successful meeting ever held by the Post was a Grand Camp Fire, given April 26th, 1877, at which time the Department Commander and Staff, Posts 19, of Fitchburg, 59, of Sterling, 64, of Clinton, 48, of Ayer, and 50, of Townsend, were present. The parade was headed by the Fitchburg Band, and in the evening a concert was given in the town hall, by local talent, under the direction of comrade J. F. Chaffin, after which stirring speeches were made, and a collection, amounting to \$85.00, taken up to be given towards establishing a Soldiers' Home in Massachusetts. This action was the means of placing the town of Leominster first in the State to respond to the call for contributions for that purpose. The full amount turned over to the Department Commander for the Soldiers' Home was \$572.05.

About \$2000.00 has been expended in charity by the Post during the past ten years, and nearly 200 families aided. This does not include many donations made by comrades, which did not pass through the Post's funds, nor does it include about \$600 given to the Soldiers' Home, nor the \$900 stolen from them. All these sums foot up nearly \$5500.00, or an average of about \$275 per year, for the past twenty years. Early in 1885, the organization met with a heavy loss through the rascality of

their comrade, and previously highly esteemed Quartermaster, Wm. H. Lovering, who absconded with the entire funds of the Post, excepting about \$45.00, and for which he was court-martialed and dishonorably discharged from the G. A. R. Although disheartened at their loss they immediately took measures to replenish their treasury. The sympathy of the town's people was shown in a substantial way, the Post realizing handsomely from the various enterprises which they brought out. The Ladies Relief Corps donated \$100.00. The 1st Congregational Society from their calico party, \$69.30. The Baptist Society \$20.00. The largest and most successful enterprise was the Grand Fair held from Oct. 12 to the 17th, which netted \$4616.57. Thus, what appeared to be a calamity was really a blessing in disguise, for the Post found itself in good circumstances once more. Old soldiers, who had not until then manifested an interest, felt the severity of the loss and like true soldiers rallied to its assistance, joined the ranks and are now doing all in their power to help carry on the work successfully.

The officers of Post 53 for 1888, are : T. A. Hills, Commander ; H. N. Spring, Senior Vice Commander ; D. W. Martin, Junior Vice Commander ; C. A. Wheeler, Surgeon ; E. B. Payne, Chaplain ; A. W. Allen, Adjutant ; J. J. Railey, Quartermaster ; C. B. Flagg, Officer of the Day ; Elijah Thompson, Officer of the Guard ; Albert Flagg, Sergeant-Major ; G. A. Richardson, Q. M. Sergeant.

The following is a list of the Past Commanders : L. A. Cook, W. A. Burrage, F. W. Polley, J. A. Stratton, N. B. Ellis, C. A. Wheeler, C. B. Flagg, W. B. Frissell, Thomas J. Ames, Madison Beal, Aldrich Cook, Clesson Kenney, A. W. Allen, W. D. Blanchard.

LUCIEN A. COOK, first Commander. Sketch already given.

WM. A. BURRAGE, second Commander of the Post, was born in Leominster, March 5, 1844. Wm. A. Burrage was

a son of John M. and Abbie M. Burrage of Leominster, Mass.

From the time he was thirteen years of age, until the Summer of 1862, he worked on a farm for his uncle, Dea. Emory Burrage. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Co. H, 33d Reg., which company his cousin, Joseph P. Burrage, had previously joined. Before leaving camp he was promoted to the rank of Corporal, and afterwards, while in Georgia, he was made Orderly Sergeant. After being mustered out of service in 1865, he learned the shoe business in Leominster, married in March 1869, Abbie Thayer of Leominster and subsequently removed to Marlboro', Mass. He was elected Commander of the Post in 1869.

F. W. POLLEY, third Commander, was born in Leominster, Feb. 26th, 1837. He worked at shoe-making until the war broke out, when he enlisted and served in Co. A, 15th Reg., and in Co. H, 4th Reg., Mass. Heavy Artillery.

In 1862 he engaged in the shoe business with his father, under the firm name of A. M. Polley & Son, which business he still carries on. Together with others he helped organize Post 53, of which he was a charter member. He served as Senior and Junior Vice Commander, and from July, 1869, to Jan., 1873, as Commander.

J. A. STRATTON, fourth Commander, was born in Leominster in 1837. He enlisted in August, 1862, in Co. C, 53d Reg., Mass. Vols., and was commissioned as Captain. He was badly wounded at the assault upon Port Hudson, La., being shot through the head. He was mustered out with the Reg. Sept. 2d, 1863. He joined Post 53 in Nov., 1869, and served as Commander several terms. He is at present living in Reading, Kansas.

N. B. ELLIS, fifth Commander, was born in Sandwich, Mass., in 1835, enlisted in the 20th Mass. Vols., holding a First Lieutenant's commission. After the close of the war,



F. W. POLLEY.



W. B. FRISSELL



THOS. J. AMES.



W. D. BLANCHARD.



H. N. SPRING



J. F. DAFFIN.



J. J. BAILEY.



ELI A. THOMPSON



he was employed as a shoe maker in Leominster. He was Commander in 1875.

C. A. WHEELER, sixth Commander. Sketch as physician given elsewhere.

C. B. FLAGG, seventh Commander, is a native of Sterling, where he was born Feb. 13th, 1839. He enlisted in Co. A, 34th Reg., M. V. M., for three years. He was wounded May 15th, 1864, at New Market, Va., and discharged at Dale Gen'l Hospital, Worcester, July 3d, 1865. He joined Post 53 in 1868 and was Commander in 1880.

W. B. FRISSELL, eighth Commander, was born in Thetford, Vt., in 1826. He enlisted in 1861 as private in Co. K, 6th N. H. Reg. He served three years; was wounded at the second battle of Bull Run and Fredericksburg. He held the rank of First Sergeant at the time he was discharged in 1864. He moved to Leominster in 1865, and has since followed the business of carpentering.

THOMAS J. AMES, ninth Commander, was born in Keene, N. H., Feb. 25th, 1843, and came to Leominster in 1850. He enlisted in Co. A, 36th Reg. Mass. Vols., July 14, 1862, and was with his regiment up to July 8, 1864, when he was wounded in front of Petersburg, Va., and was mustered out of service as Sergeant, July 18, 1865. He became a member of Post 53 in 1870. He served as adjutant for four years, and was Commander in 1884. He also served on the staff of Commander in Chief, R. B. Heath. He was appointed a Postal clerk in 1880.

MADISON BEAL, tenth Commander, was born in Winchendon, Mass., in 1846. He enlisted Oct., 17th, 1861, as private in Co. I, 26th Mass. Vols. and was discharged from service Nov. 18th, 1864. He joined Post 53 in 1871, and served as Commander in 1883.

ALDRICH COOK, eleventh Commander, was born in Leomin-



ster, April 18th, 1841. He learned the comb business and has been, most of the the time since, interested in the manufacture of horn goods. From 1872 to 1876 he was engaged in the comb business with Capt. E. A. Bennett, under the firm name of Bennett, Cook & Co. He enlisted and served in the 5th Mass. Vols. He was a charter member of Post 53, and served as Commander in 1884.

CLESSION KENNEY, twelfth Commander, 1885. Sketch given with business of Tenney & Kenney.

A. W. ALLEN, thirteenth Commander, was born at Townsend, Vt., July 8th 1844. He enlisted first, April 19th, 1861, for three months, in the 1st Reg., Vermont Infantry. He served his time out and re-enlisted, Oct. 1st, 1861, for three years, in the 1st Reg., Vermont Cavalry, and was discharged at Stevensburg, Va., Feb., 1864.

By reason of re-enlistment he was granted a veteran's furlough of 35 days and after that period continued with the Reg. until the close of the war. During the war he was slightly wounded twice, but not enough to require the help of a surgeon.

WILLARD D. BLANCHARD, fourteenth Commander, was born in Foster, R. I., Aug. 7th, 1844. He removed to Uxbridge and attended the schools there. Sept. 23d, 1861, he enlisted in Co. H, 25th Reg., Mass. Vols. He re-enlisted Feb. 18th, 1864, and was mustered out of service July 15th, 1865, by reason of the close of the war. He removed to Leominster in April, 1870, and has since that time been engaged in business as dealer and contractor in granite. He was Commander of Post 53 in 1887, and the Worcester County Division G. A. R., 1887-8.

A sketch of T. A. Hills, the 15th and present Commander of the Post will be found in connection with a history of the Post Office.

## WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS NO. 31, DEPT. OF MASS.

Feb. 19, 1878, by request of Commander Joel Stratton, and other comrades of the Post, a small company of ladies met in Wood's block, in the rooms then occupied by Mrs. L. J. Cook, for the purpose of forming a Ladies Society, to assist the Post in their labors of charity. March 4th, 1878, the Ladies Auxiliary Corps was organized with the following officers: President, Mrs. Joel Stratton; Vice President, Mrs. L. J. Cook; Secretary, A. S. Jaquith; Treasurer, Mrs. Amanda Wilder. January 1, 1881, the name of the Society was changed to the Leominster Relief Society," and Dec. 29th, re-organized under its present name, "Woman's Relief Corps, 31, of the Department of Massachusetts," with the following officers: President, Mary A. Flagg; Senior Vice Pres., Sarah F. Gallup; Junior Vice Pres., Helena Brown; Chaplain, Augusta Holman; Conductor, Sarah Hicks. The officers for 1888, are, President, Sarah F. Gallup; Sen. Vice Pres., Adolin O. Kendall; Jun. Vice Pres., Sarah Hicks; Sec., Mary A. Flagg; Treas., Ella Butler; Chaplain, M. Augusta Holman; conductor, Emma Wells; assistant conductor, Charlotte Danforth; Guard, Sarah Parker; assistant guard, Mary Locke.

## E. A. BENNETT CAMP NO. 52 SONS OF VETERANS.

The Sons of Veterans were mustered into service the evening of Dec. 15, 1885. The object of the organization is to keep in remembrance the deeds the fathers wrought, and to perpetuate the love they cherished for the country they so bravely defended. The membership is confined to young men whose fathers served their country during the Rebellion. The present officers are: G. H. Woodbury, captain; G. S. Gibson, 1st Lieut; G. S. Boynton, 2d. Lieut.; H. E. McKenney, chaplain, (rank of Lieut.); W. C. Cozzens, orderly sergeant; G. A. Woodworth, Q. M. Sergeant; J. V. Cook, Sergeant of Guard; John S. Wilson, Color Sergeant; W. F. Morse, Camp Guard;

John Willis, Corporal of the Guard ; Thos. McEvoy, Picket Guard.

At a meeting of the Camp, held on Monday evening, July 25th, 1887, Rev. E. B. Payne, in behalf of 200 of his fellow townsmen, presented the Camp with a beautiful silk flag, elegantly mounted, and bearing the inscription : " E. A. Bennett Camp No. 52, S. of V., Leominster, Mass."

### OLD MILITARY COMPANIES.

For many years Leominster furnished two companies of militia, the Old Artillery Company and "The Leominster Rifles ;" and for a long time was the Regimental headquarters. The manufacturers and business men of the town were personally interested in military matters and although it was the only town of its size in the State, having two companies, yet both received a liberal support and were in a flourishing condition. The palmiest days of the "Rifles" were during the 20 years previous to 1850. The Artillery Company, as previously stated, was in existence for nearly a century, although in later years it was organized as infantry.

Under the old militia laws, one Company of Artillery was allowed to each Regiment of Infantry. The Leominster Artillery Co. was attached to the 9th Regiment and always assigned the right of line.

In June, 1868, after the close of the war, the Company was re-organized. They made choice of Lucien A. Cook, Captain ; Eugene A. Bennett, 1st Lieutenant ; William A. Burrage, 2d Lieutenant ; and the Company was designated as Co. K, 10th Regt., M. V. M. In 1878 the militia of the State was re-organized and Co. K, was transferred to the 6th Regt. In December, 1885, it was disbanded by order of Adj. Gen. Dalton.

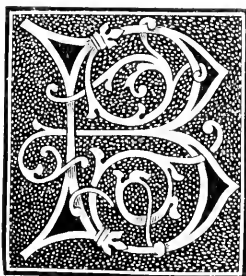
For years the books of this Company, dating back to its organization in 1787, were kept in the vault of the town hall.

Time did its work and they became illegible. Some of the records were lost in the Worcester fire, so that at the present time there is very little relating to its history in a state of preservation.

The year previous to being disbanded, the Company went into muster with a small number of men, but at the time the order was received, Captain Winch was engaged in recruiting the Company. Had the organization lived to celebrate its centennial, fifteen months later, it would have been a red letter day in the history of Leominster.

## CHAPTER VII.

### ORGANIZATIONS.



ENEVOLENT and other organizations in Leominster, are numerous and well supported, the humane and social qualities of the people finding expression in their operation.

Below are such facts in regard to these organizations as are of special interest.

### SECRET SOCIETIES.

THE MASONIC ORDER is represented by WILDER LODGE, F. & A. M., which was organized in 1859, and chartered June 14, 1860, receiving its name from Hon. David Wilder. It should be stated here that Aurora Lodge, F. & A. M., the oldest organization in Fitchburg, was instituted in Leominster, June 9, 1801, and removed to Fitchburg in 1845. The charter members of Wilder Lodge were: Wm. Durant, Luther Longley, Calvin B. Cook, Ephraim Buss, Benjamin Higbee, Sewall Richardson, Wm. Wilder, John H. Lockey, Samuel Putnam, Geo. T. Lincoln, Charles H. Merriam, Emory Tilton, William B. Walker, F. W. Polley, C. T. Brown, Horatio Willard, L. N. Leslie, A. L. Putnam, Joel C. Allen. The Past Masters are: William Durant, John H. Lockey, Alfred L. Burditt, Charles A. Wheeler, Samuel Whittier, Joel D. Miller, Oliver J. Put-



RESIDENCE OF N. HARWOOD, GROVE AVENUE.



nam, Thomas J. Ames, Calvin B. Cook, Daniel R. Haynes, Joseph P. Lockey, James Skinner, Francis C. Bowen, Francis H. Shaw, Wilbur B. Tenney, William F. Wilkins, H. R. Brown. The present officers are : F. W. Tenney, W. M. ; E. D. Moody, S. W. ; H. C. Garfield, J. W. ; J. G. Tenney, Treas. ; O. A. Taft, Sec. ; D. W. Martin, Senior Dea. ; N. E. Metcalf, Junior Dea. ; C. A. Joslin, Marshall ; C. H. Moore, Chap. ; A. Draffin, S. S. ; A. W. Colburn, J. S. ; Mason Harris, I. S. ; W. F. Wilkins, T. Stated communications, Tuesday, on or before full moon.

THE ODD FELLOWS are represented by Leominster Lodge, No. 86, and Prosperity, (Rebekah) Lodge No. 68.

LEOMINSTER LODGE NO. 86, I. O. O. F. was instituted at Leominster, Aug. 7, 1845, and re-instituted 1874. Charles L. Joslin was the first Noble Grand. The following named persons have served in that important office since : L. C. Richardson, J. H. Lockey, Thomas Thompson, ; Charles H. Balch E. E. Woods, S. W. Moore, A. J. Bates, F. N. Boutwell, A. A. Wheeler, H. P. Wheeler, C. W. Walker, A. B. Upham, J. M. Robbins, L. F. Poland, A. S. Paton, C. H. Rice, F. F. Fiske, C. H. Currier, W. A. Snow, H. R. Davis, W. F. Dodge, H. Gardner, Alvah Heald, A. L. Walker, J. C. Chapin, W. H. Wood, H. C. Garfield.

The present officers of the Lodge are : N. G., A. P. Harris ; Vice G., W. E. White ; Sec., F. F. Fiske ; Treas., L. C. Richardson ; Warden, F. H. Johnson ; Conductor, Frank L. Farnsworth ; O. G., C. N. Cozzens ; I. G., A. W. Blood ; R. S. N. G., H. R. Davis ; L. S. N. G., L. B. Grimes, R. S. V. G., Wm. A. Hill ; L. S. V. G., Geo. H. Woodbury ; R. S. S., Chas. P. Ellis ; L. S. S., John Rodger ; Chaplain, C. H. Arrington.

Meetings every Wednesday evening.

PROSPERITY LODGE, DAUGHTERS OF REBEKAH, NO. 86, was instituted Sept. 28th, of the present year, under very fav-



orable circumstances. Twenty-five charter members constituted the Lodge. Twenty-one were admitted by card, or having the necessary qualifications, and eleven new members were initiated. The following officers were elected : N. G., A. S. Paton ; V. G., Mrs. Maria P. Wright ; Sec., Mrs. S. F. Morse ; Treas., Mrs. Annie M. Rice ; F. S., A. L. Walker ; Warden, Mrs. Margaret Harris ; Con., Mrs. Sarah F. Hicks ; O. G., C. N. Cozzens ; I. G., H. I. Whitcomb ; R. S. N. G., M. F. Morse ; L. S. N. G., L. B. Grimes ; R. S. V. G., Mrs. S. A. Goodrich ; L. S. V. G., Mrs. Lizzie Wilcox ; Chaplain, Geo. M. Powers.

Regular meetings, second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

IMPROVED ORDER OF RED MEN, WACHUSETT TRIBE, No. 41. Instituted, May 18, 1887. The present officers are : Prophet, D. A. Driscoll ; Sachem, F. W. Osgood ; Senior Sagamore, S. A. McDonald ; Junior Sagamore, J. L. Jones ; Chief of Records, W. F. Lawrence ; Ass't. C. of R., C. H. Hyatt ; Keeper of Wampum, H. E. Davis ; G. of W., C. A. Burnham ; G. of F., F. S. Flagg. Meetings every Monday. Hall in Paton's Block.

ANCIENT ORDER HIBERNIANS, DIVISION 32. Present officers : William Hackett, President ; Matthew Murphy, Vice President ; Joseph O'Haire, F. S. ; Daniel Reagan, Treas. ; James Walsh, R. S.

DIVISION 4, North Leominster. Present Officers : James Crain, President ; T. Gorman, Vice President ; Michael Sullivan, Treasurer ; John McCann, F. S. ; Michael McLoughlin, R. S.

#### MUTUAL BENEFIT SOCIETIES.

KNIGHTS OF HONOR. GRANITE LODGE, No. 197, was instituted Dec. 21st, 1875. Past Dictators : C. A. Wheeler, Geo. A. Bishop, J. P. Lockey, Geo. F. Morse, F. E. Nims, F. O. Lothrop, H. G. Edgerly, D. I. Munsie, Aldrich Cook, Geo. H.

Cook, T. E. Kendall, J. C. Chapin, J. B. Farnsworth, E. F. Blodgett.

Present officers : J. M. Robbins, Dic. ; Chas. H. Howe, V. D. ; J. A. Tyler, A. D. ; Geo. E. Carter, Rep. ; Wm. H. Wood, F. R. ; C. F. Nixon, Treas. ; A. P. Harris, Chaplain ; Geo. R. Damon, Guide ; Aldrich Cook, Guardian ; P. Gallagher, Sen.

Meetings, at G. A. R. Hall, first and third Mondays in the month.

ANCIENT ORDER UNITED WORKMEN. TAHANTO LODGE, No. 23, was organized in 1881. The Past Master Workmen are : Wm. H. Savage, J. A. Cotton, H. R. Brown, J. A. Stowell, Albert Stevens, M. A. Greenwood, and O. A. Taft.

The present officers are : J. A. Stowell, P. M. W. ; O. A. Taft, M. W. ; W. D. Blanchard, F. ; J. C. Nichols, O. ; A. W. Allen, Recorder ; F. W. Polley, Rec. ; A. O. Wilder, Fin. ; W. G. Derby, Guide ; Jason Buxton, I. W. ; C. F. Russell, O. W.

Stated meetings, first and third Thursdays of each month.

ROYAL ARCANUM. MONOOSNOCK COUNCIL, No. 977, was organized June 21st, 1886. The present officers are : I. Freeman Hall, Regent ; W. A. Putnam, Vice Regent ; George E. Pratt, Orator ; A. G. Morse, Past Regent ; C. H. Hyatt, Sec'y ; F. J. Lothrop, Collector ; Fred E. Richardson, Treasurer ; G. M. Powers, Chaplain ; C. I. Cleverly, Guide ; Clesson Merri- man, Warden ; Henry Shaw, Sentry.

Meets in G. A. R. Hall first and third Wednesdays of each month.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF GOOD FELLOWS. Instited June 7, 1888. Officers : Chas. Wild, Past Ruler ; A. D. Symonds, Ruler ; George Whitney, Comselloer ; Andrew Tisdale, Instruc- tor ; F. E. Buss, Treasurer ; C. H. Tenney, Financial Secre- tary ; C. S. Buss, Secretary ; W. D. Phelps, Prelate ; P. S. Tolman, Director ; C. L. Chase, Guard ; Nelson Holman, Sen-

try. Meetings the first Monday of each month, at Wood's hall.

ORDER OF THE IRON HALL, BRANCH 787. Instituted June 8th, 1888. Officers : C. J., M. F. Morse ; V. J., Charles Brigham ; Acct. A. E. Burgess ; Cashier, F. S. Treworgy ; Adjustor, E. H. Nutting ; Prelate, E. M. Wheeler ; Herald, J. A. Johnquest ; Watchman, W. F. Currier ; Vedette, M. Blodgett ; Medical Examiner, Dr. E. R. Miller. Meetings Friday evenings in I. O. G. T. Hall.

LEOMINSTER FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION was chartered March 12th, 1879, for the purpose of mutual relief, and assistance, under the calamities to which their public duties may expose them. President, Wm. H. Wood ; Vice Pres., A. W. Lowe ; Sec., A. L. Tenney ; Treas. Elmer Bates.

#### TEMPERANCE SOCIETIES.

SONS OF TEMPERANCE. AURORA DIVISION, No. 29, was instituted in 1879. The Past Worthy Patriarchs are : Joel Smith, Mason Harris, Mrs. Mason Harris, Mrs. Ira F. Holman, Mrs. Ola L. Smith, Chas. O. Moore, Z. S. Phelps, A. B. McPherson, Wm. C. McPherson, J. C. Smith, James L. Ellis, Geo. S. Boynton, Fred W. Greenleaf.

The present officers are : H. D. Hale, W. P. ; Ida Smith, W. A. ; F. G. Williams, R. S. ; May Brooks, Asst. R. S. ; C. S. Chase, Treasurer ; E. F. Metcalf, F. S. ; Edith Baldwin, Chaplain ; A. B. McPherson, Conductor ; Lizzie Tompkins, A. C. ; Lillian Pierce, I. S. ; J. C. Smith, O. S. ; G. S. Boynton, P. W. P.

I. O. G. T. KENDALL LODGE No. 7, instituted Oct. 13, 1883. Officers : C. T., J. C. Smith ; V. T., Kate Gates ; Sec., Mrs. Augusta Holman ; Asst. Sec., Lunette E. Fife ; F. S., James Rainey ; T., E. N. Sanders ; Chap., Edgar Sutherland ; M., Melvin Day ; D. M., Nellie Whittaker ; G., Mrs. Henry

Hale ; S., Henry S. Hale ; P. C. T., Wm. T. Lesloe.

## CLUBS.

LEOMINSTER CLUB, organized in April, 1882. President, Geo. F. Morse ; Vice President, Dr. E. J. Cutter ; Secretary and Treasurer, Edmund Munsie. Rooms in Allen's Block.

LEOMINSTER RIFLE CLUB, organized August 29th, 1883. President, Chas. C. Foster ; Vice President, E. M. Rockwell ; Secretary and Treasurer, C. A. Joslin ; Captain, Geo. W. Foster. Range, off Mill street.

LEOMINSTER GUN CLUB, organized, April 15th, 1886. President, I. F. Gorham ; Vice President, Waldo Wood ; Treas. A. G. Powers ; Secretary, R. B. Andrews ; Directors, L. M. Harris, E. F. Blodgett, A. McDonald.

LOCKEY RIFLE CLUB, composed of the employes of the Lockey Piano Case Co., was organized April 10, 1886. President, J. H. Lockey ; Vice Pres., W. H. Wood ; Secretary, H. R. Davis ; Treas., A. J. Rugg ; Capt. W. H. Wood. Range off Mill street. Members of these rifle and gun clubs have done some excellent shooting, Messrs. George F. Prevear, E. M. Rockwell and F. A. Whitney thus far taking the lead.

THE LEOMINSTER TOWN IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION. This town early manifested an interest in planting, as well as preserving, shade trees, wherever they would beautify the place, and and was always ready to encourage the same public spirit in individuals.

About the year 1765, the land since used for the new cemetery, was hired by Joshua Smith, the first tanner in town, with the expressed understanding that he should plant a row of elms by the side of it ; a condition which he fulfilled, but the soil not being suited to their growth, very few of them lived. The town also, in its corporate capacity, has caused trees to be set out in various locations. A few of the elms and other trees on

the common, and in the vicinity of the three meeting houses and the Town House were of this number. The rest were planted by citizens. The avenue of elms on Main street were planted in the spring of 1763, and the maple trees around what is called "the neck," were placed there by Joel Crosby, Esq., who, for many years, took pains to set out ornamental trees, not only adjoining his own land, but along the line of the neighboring farms.

The first organized effort to secure public improvements, and to beautify the town, was made by the Leominster Town Improvement Association, which was organized February 2d, 1883. Its officers included an executive committee of fifteen, and sub-committees on trees, vines and climbing plants, Lectures and entertainments, membership, water-supply and drainage, and an advisory committee.

Mr. Howard M. Lane was its first President, accepting the office to serve only until a complete organization was effected, and the Association placed on a working basis. As soon, therefore, as that point was reached, Mr. Lane resigned the position, and Mr. A. S. Paton was elected in his place. The Vice Presidents were: Dr. F. E. Nims, Hamilton Mayo, N. Harwood and F. C. Bowen; Secretary, Miss Laura S. Merriam; Treasurer, Amos B. Merrill. Some of the objects of the Association were to encourage and superintend the planting and maintaining of shade trees in the public streets and squares and trimming and preserving trees already existing, to encourage the planting of vines, climbing plants and flowering shrubs about the dwellings of citizens, and around the public buildings, to use its influence for the improvement of the water supply and drainage of the town, to consult with the owners or occupants of dilapidated buildings and unseemly plots of ground, and endeavor to secure an improvement in their general appearance. To improve and raise to a higher

plane the mental and moral condition of the town, making necessary arrangements for lectures and other entertainments.

The first and most important work undertaken by the Association was the improvement of the common. Several years prior to this Mr. George H. Norman contributed a receipted bill of \$100.00 for his services to the town, with the provision that the sum should go towards providing a fountain whenever water should be put in. At the May town meeting, a committee consisting of Hamilton Mayo, Esq., T. B. Grimes and E. G. Davis was appointed, who, on Nov. 6, 1883, recommended that the Town Improvement Association be the committee to carry out the work. The report of this committee was accepted and the \$100, undergift of Mr. Norton toward the contemplated fountain, was appropriated. The Executive Committee of the Association appointed A. S. Tisdale and E. G. Davis to attend to the work, also voting suitable compensation for one man's time. This committee chose Wm. B. Kittredge for the granite basin and the stone work, not including necessary excavations. The basin is of Fitchburg granite 25 feet in diameter, curbing and solid foundations



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pointed, who, recommended that the Town Improvement Association be the committee to carry out the work. This committee was accepted and stood to be the man appropriated for the construction of the fountain. The committee of appointment A. S. Tisdale and E. G. Davis intended the work, also voting suitable compensation for one man's time. This committee chose Wm. B. Kittredge for the granite basin and the stone work, not including necessary excavations. The basin is of Fitchburg granite 25 feet in diameter, curbing and solid foundations

3 feet deep and filled inside with rubble, covered with cement. The cutting of the circular curbing was done by Frank M. Leavitt and Leonard Woods at no profit, and the thoroughness of the whole work is creditable to both contractor and workmen. The drinking fountain adjoining the stone basin was a gift to the town by S. M. Frost and cost \$100.00, and was made by the J. L. Mott Iron Works, New York. The laying out of the grounds was after a plan prepared by a former townsman, Mr. H. C. Burdett, of Boston. The loam, of which 227 loads were used, was obtained in exchange for a double quantity of gravel and having been put in place during the previous autumn, an old fashioned bee was appointed for June 6 and 7, 1884, when the citizens responded and the loam was levelled and the foundation of the walks was constructed by volunteer labor, after which a collation was served in the town hall by ladies of the Association. While the work was in progress, Mr. J. C. Allen, then too ill to be out, noticed the army of workmen on the common, and with his life-long public spirit, delegated Mr. C. S. Perry to distribute soda tickets among them at his expense. This was one of Mr. Allen's last public acts. Prominent among the workers, on this occasion, was Rev. Wm. H. Savage, shovel in hand, showing his interest by example as well as precept. It may be mentioned, in this connection, that the formation of the Improvement Society was first proposed by Mr. Savage, that he declined acting as its president believing it should be purely a town Society, but that he lost no opportunity, as long as he remained in town, of encouraging a public spirit in others.

THE LEOMINSTER FARMERS AND MECHANICS' ASSOCIATION was organized in the Autumn of 1851. Its object was to promote the interests of agriculture, and all industrial pursuits, and especially to benefit those engaged therein, by inciting to investigation, to reflection and to action, and by furnishing facilities for a fine interchange of opinions, thereby to call forth

the results of individual observation and experience, and to elicit practical and scientific information.

The influence which this Association has since exerted over the industrial pursuits of the town, can hardly be estimated. The Association has met with many years of prosperity since its organization. The present year, 1888, it has a membership of 426, and has on deposit \$3,200. Its annual exhibitions are attended with increasing interest from year to year. The present board of officers are : Pres., W. B. Tisdale ; Vice Pres., C. S. Buss and C. F. Boyden ; Sec., Chas. H. Rice ; Treas., J. M. Bronson ; Executive Committee, E. M. Harrington, O. J. Putnam, E. V. Powers, H. C. Fuller, J. D. Cogswell ; Auditors, W. H. Fuller, G. M. Powers.



## CHAPTER VIII.

### BIOGRAPHICAL.



AMONG those who have lived in Leominster in the past, there are few who may be said to have attained marked distinction beyond the limits of their immediate neighborhood. In the early history of the town the clerical profession was well represented by John Rogers, the medical by Jacob Peabody, and the legal by Asa Johnson and Abijah Bigelow. It was not our purpose, in the foregoing pages, to give undue prominence to the subjects of these sketches, but to record briefly the doings of Leominster men of later years, who were active and useful in their day and generation.

ALVAH CROCKER was, perhaps, more widely known than any other native of Leominster. His father was a veteran in the Nichols & Kendall paper mill, where, at the age of eight years, Alvah found employment. At sixteen he entered Groton Academy, remaining until the fifty dollars, he had saved from his earnings, was gone, and he was obliged to leave to obtain money. Not succeeding in this, he gave up all idea of getting



a college education, but managed to obtain books and continued his studies after working hours.

In 1823, he entered the employ of Gen. Leonard Burbank in Fitchburg, after working three years in Franklin, N. H.

In 1826, he selected a spot of land in West Fitchburg, built, with borrowed capital, his first paper mill and started in business. The location was in a birch swamp and not easily accessible, as the river road was not then built. Desiring to get a road further up the Nashua River, and meeting with opposition from the land-holders, he bought the whole Nashua valley to the Westminster line, gave the land for the road, and by this investment laid the foundation of financial success. All the mills of Crocker, Burbank & Co., have since been located in this valley.

In every public enterprise Mr. Crocker exhibited the same rare sagacity and foresight shown in the management of his private affairs. In 1843, while in the Legislature, he advocated the railroad from Boston to Fitchburg, and in spite of opposition and ridicule, the Fitchburg Railroad was built and Mr. Crocker was made its first president. Three years later he accomplished the building of the Vermont and Massachusetts R. R., and was its first president. In 1847-8 he delivered several hundred lectures in behalf of the Troy & Boston R. R., doing more than any other man in the State to insure the completion of the Tunnel, and was one of the Commissioners, when the work was put into the hands of the State.

Besides the railroad enterprises, to which so much of his public life was given, a greater work was undertaken in the controlling and utilizing the magnificent water power of the Connecticut River at Turner's Falls. This work, however, was left unfinished at his death. It was his ambition to make Turner's Falls not only rival Lowell, Holyoke and other large manufacturing cities, but to pass by and above them, and had

he been spared he would, no doubt, have left Turner's Falls as a monument of his greatness.

In 1872 Mr. Crocker was chosen Representative to Congress from the Ninth District, was afterwards re-elected, and was a member at the time of his death, which took place December 30th, 1874. In his own city, Fitchburg, Mr. Crocker labored steadily and persistently to secure needed improvements, being largely instrumental in getting a water supply. During the war he was a staunch patriot, and a liberal donor of time and money to secure the triumph of the great and good cause. Gov. Andrew entrusted him with the honorable duty of caring for the wounded Massachusetts soldiers, and more than one patriot can testify that when funds were not available for the relief of his need, the money of Mr. Crocker was at once and judiciously drawn upon, to convey the aid desired.

DAVID WILDER, died at his residence in North Leominster Friday, Sept. 21st, 1866, aged 88 years. No citizen of Leominster, probably, ever held more offices of trust given by the people. He represented the town eleven years in the Legislature, was a Justice of the Quorum throughout the Commonwealth, as a State Senator, Commissioner of the Highway, member of the Governor's Council, and for five years was Treasurer of the Commonwealth. He was a member of the Unitarian church for 57 years, and an officer (deacon) for 34 years. He was also a prominent Mason, Wilder Lodge receiving its name in his honor. Dec. 3, 1852, he finished writing *The History of Leominster*, which was his last public business.

DR. CHARLES WOODWARD WILDER was born in Ashburnham, Mass., December 30th, 1790. He was a member of the class of 1817, Dartmouth Medical School, and there he received his diploma as Doctor of medicine. He commenced the practice of his profession with Dr. Haskell of Leominster, and remained with him about three years, after which he



CHARLES W. L.



AM. H. STE



W. H. L.



W. H. L.



moved to Templeton, Mass., where he was engaged in an extensive practice for eleven years. Leaving Templeton in 1832, he went to Fitchburg, and for some time was engaged in the practice of his profession in that place in company with Dr. Snow. From Fitchburg he returned to Leominster and made this place his home for the rest of his life. He practiced his profession with remarkable success, not only in this town but in all the adjoining villages. He was also deeply interested in all the important events of his time. He was full of progressive ideas and believed in improvements. He was public spirited, and took an active part in the affairs of the town and county. For many years he was a member of the school committee and during the years 1836, '37, '45, '47 and '48 represented the town in the State Legislature. During his life he held many other offices of public trust and distinction. He was for some time President of the Worcester District Medical Society, before which, in 1843, he delivered a very able dissertation on Pulmonary Consumption. When the old Fitchburg Bank was first organized he was one of its charter members, and held the office of Director during his life. He was one of the prime movers in organizing the Fitchburg and Worcester R. R. Company, now a part of the Old Colony system, and it is chiefly owing to his energy and perseverance that the road was completed and the enterprise made a success. He was elected the first president of the road, and after resigning that office became one of the directors of the company, which office he held up to the time of his death. He was also a member of the Bunker Hill Monument Committee, and took an active part in all public matters up to the last year of his life. The final disposition of his property by will showed, in a marked degree, his blended benevolence and thoughtfulness that distinguished him through life, by his liberal bequest of twenty thousand dollars to the Massachusetts General Hospital, for the support

of free beds in that institution. He was a prominent member of the First Congregational (Unitarian) Society, and took an active part in all church matters. His most striking characteristics were his untiring activity and industry. He endeavored to use every moment for some good, and by this means climbed the ladder of life, commencing with the bottom round and ending with the top one of success. His death occurred February 12th, 1851.

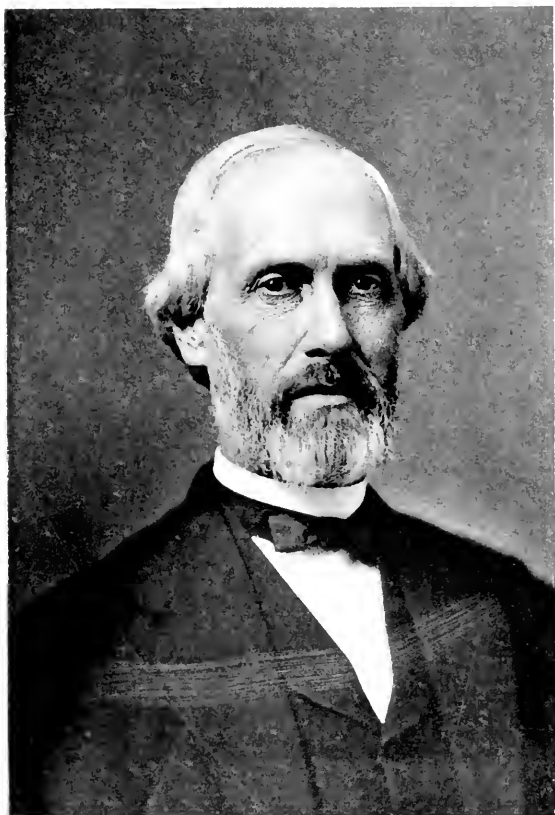
JAMES H. CARTER was born in Lancaster in the year 1794, and removed to Leominster, where he was for many years one of the most influential and active business men. He first began the manufacture of combs in the small house now standing on the corner of West and Cotton streets, using the old fashioned horse-power in the business. He was afterwards associated with Isaac Cowdrey and Oliver Patch under the firm name of Carter, Cowdrey & Patch, the particulars of which are given in Mr. Cowdrey's sketch.

Mr. Carter served the town as chairman of the board of Selectmen and also on the board of Assessors. He was specially interested in the Fitchburg and Worcester R. R., and held the office of a director before it was consolidated with the Boston, Clinton and Fitchburg R. R. Mr. Carter was one of three original incorporators of the Leominster Savings Bank, John H. Lockey and Leonard Burrage being the other two, and was elected a trustee and served in that capacity as long as he lived. He was also a director in the First National Bank from the date of its incorporation until the time of his death, March 13, 1871.

J. C. LANE was born in Epping, N. H., June 15, 1815, and came to Leominster in 1845. He established the first piano shop and manufactured the first piano-forte cases ever made in this town. He first occupied a small building which stood near where Valpey & Anthony's shoe factory now stands and







CHARLES H. MERRIAM.

afterwards, in 1847, he built the shop now owned by the W. S. Reed Toy Co., and carried on business there for several years. During all the years of his residence in Leominster Mr. Lane was an active and efficient member of the M. E. Church and a prominent and respected citizen.

OLIVER PATCH was born in Fitzwilliam, N. H., August 9th, 1805, and died in Wilmington, Vt., June 28th, 1875. When a young man Mr. Patch removed to Leominster and engaged in the livery and jobbing business. He afterwards started in what was then a new business in Leominster, the buying and selling of coal. He was also a member of the firm of Carter, Cowdrey, & Patch, as stated in sketch of Isaac Cowdrey, and was for a time interested in the Union Comb Co. Upon the organization of the First National Bank Mr. Patch was made a director, which office he held as long as he lived. Some time previous to his death Mr. Patch gave up active business, retiring to his farm which he carried on as long as he was able to labor.

CHARLES H. MERRIAM was born March 1, 1822, in the town of Westport, County of Essex, in the State of New York. He was one of seven children of Josephus and Betsey Merriam. His father died when he was six years of age, and the family, consisting of the mother, four boys and three girls, removed to this State, and located in Fitchburg, where in early life he worked in the cotton mill, after which he lived on a farm for a brief time. He then learned the harness trade and became a master workman. In 1847, he began the study of law with his brother in Connecticut. He was afterwards a student at Middlebury, Vt. In 1851, he returned to Massachusetts, and in 1852 was admitted to the practice of the law in the Courts of this Commonwealth, and the same year opened an office in Leominster. He was appointed Trial Justice, which office he held until his death. In 1860, he was elected

a delegate to the National Republican Convention, which Convention nominated Abraham Lincoln, for the Presidency. In the early stages of the Rebellion he was active. He enlisted in the 53d Regiment as Colonel but sickness compelled him to return home. For many years he was counsel for the town in all legal matters, was many times elected to the office of Selectman, and as a member of the School board giving to the town for many years valuable service in both these offices. He held almost every important office in town, within the gift of the people; was active in introducing the water works into town and had been chairman of the water board from the beginning. The present High School Building was erected under his supervision and when the town hall was remodelled, and the library, reading room and selectmen's room were devised, it was done largely under his direction. In 1869,-70,-71, he represented his district in the State Legislature. While a member of the House, he was twice placed on the Judiciary Committee of that body, and there his ability as a lawyer and legislator became apparent. He was assigned to the difficult task of drafting general laws touching the sale of Spirituous Liquors, Statues improving the Probate System and others of larger importance. He was regarded as one of the ablest legislators of those years. In 1878-9 he represented his district in the Senate, where he found his place on the Law Committee of that body, and fully maintained his reputation as a skilfull and wise legislator.

It can be truly said of him, that whatever position he was called upon to occupy by the citizens, he entered upon the duties of the office with a conscientious determination to discharge them to the best of his ability. He died at his residence on Main street, Sunday morning, Oct. 7th, 1883.

WILLIAM A. NICHOLS was a son of Israel and Esther Nichols, born March 27th, 1805, and died April 30th, 1858. In per-



LEVI GOSS.



W. A. NICHOLS  
FROM AN OLD PORTRAIT.



DEA. WM F. BURAGE.



JOSEPH C. C. NICHOLS.



son and character he was like his father and grandfather, firm and faithful in the discharge of all trusts committed to his care. In addition to these qualities of mind and character, Mr. Nichols brought with him to Leominster a thorough knowledge of business methods. He was a competent book-keeper and made a complete revolution in the system of keeping the town books. He was for some ten years Treasurer of the Town, was a Commissioner under the bankrupt laws for his district in 1842, and held a Justice of the Peace Commission for many years. He was also a member of the Board of Directors of "The Fitchburg Bank," where his ability and experience made him a valuable member.

Those who were intimate with Mr. Nichols, and knew him during these years, remember him as a man of sterling integrity, honest and faithful in all things. He was looked up to by the town's people and was considered worthy to be held up as a pattern for young men to emulate. Few men have exerted a more salutary influence in the community, or whose departure caused such universal regret.

LEVI GOSS was born in Lancaster, Mass., in the year 1813. He received a good common school education, and, at an early age, entered the employ of Eli B. Sampson at Boylston, where he continued as his clerk for a number of years, acquiring a thorough knowledge of the Dry Goods and Grocery business. He was afterwards associated, as partner, with O. B. Sawyer in the same line of business in West Boylston. In 1864 he moved to Leominster and bought out the business of J. Q. A. Pierce. This business he continued with his son-in-law, D. I. Harthan, in the brick block owned by him, on the corner of Mechanic street. In 1872 the firm dissolved, Mr. Goss retiring from active business.

In the promotion of the work and interests of the Farmers

and Mechanics' Association of Leominster, Mr. Goss bore an active part, for nine years holding the office of Treasurer and Collector.

He was chairman of the board of Selectmen both in West Boylston and Leominster, and he was deeply and actively interested in the building of the fine carriage-road to the summit of Wachusett mountain, and in the improvement of that popular resort.

He was a director in the First National Bank from 1872 until the expiration of its charter and the formation of the new bank. He was also one of the trustees of the Leominster Savings Bank for several years, continuing in that office until the time of his death, Dec. 23d, 1884. For many years of his life, Mr. Goss was called upon to settle estates and to serve as trustee and guardian for minors and others, and in all these positions manifested rare ability with perfect integrity. Those who knew him well honored, respected, and loved him. He was a friend and counsellor to many who needed advice, and a man from whom every one received it kindly. It has been said by one who knew him well: "His salutation and cordial hand shake strengthened one's faith in humanity, and made the day seem brighter."

JOSEPH COZZENS came to Leominster from Holliston about the year 1845 and with his brother Leonard, engaged in the Lumber and Grain business at the Haws' mill—now Harwood's—and, after his brother's death, continued alone until about 1860, when he sold the mill and bought the Carter farm, where he lived the rest of his days. He was elected a director in the First National Bank in 1868, holding that office until Jan. 1st, 1885, when he declined re-election. He was a trustee, also, of the Savings Bank from its organization, and for thirteen years a member of its board of investment. For several years he







WILLIAM M. HOWLAND.

was a member of the board of Overseers of the Poor and also one of the Road Commissioners, and filled many other important positions of trust.

Mr. Cozzens was a straightforward, practical, business man. "He expressed his opinions plainly and positively, and was always ready to fulfil just what he promised, nothing less, nothing more. No one loved a social hour with a friend better than he, and he made every one cheerful by that ready, jovial manner, so peculiar to him. Such men are missed, for they help make life pleasant."

WILLIAM MILTON HOWLAND was born May 18th, 1817, in Conway, Mass. He was a lineal descendent of John Howland, one of the Pilgrim Fathers who came over in the Mayflower in 1620. John Howland's wife was Elizabeth Carver, a daughter of John Carver, the first Governor of Plymouth Colony.

Mr. Howland was engaged in the manufacture of carriages in his native town. In 1847 he moved to Springfield, with his family, where he worked as a machinist, and soon after removed to Leominster.

Here, in 1855, he engaged in business with Mr. John H. Lockey, first in the manufacture of corn planters, and afterwards, very successfully, in the manufacture of apple parers. In 1866, Mr. Howland retired permanently from business. During the remainder of his life he was often called upon to fill positions of responsibility and trust. He was public spirited, and his advice was sought in public enterprises. He was actively interested in getting a water supply for the town and was Treasurer of the Water Board, a position which he held at the time of his death.

Mr. Howland was married Oct. 10th, 1843, to Miss Louisa S. Look who, with their only daughter, Mrs. Clarence Kenney, survives him.

In 1850 he united with the Orthodox Congregational Church

and, in 1872, when the Society built their present house of worship, he was one of the largest contributors. He was chosen chairman of the building committee, and to him the Society is indebted for the good taste displayed in many parts of their beautiful edifice. He was, also, a member of the organ committee, and by his taste and experience as a musician did most effective service.

He was an earnest christian, a model husband, and a loving father. "He always had a kind word for every one, and his genial disposition and cordial greeting made him many friends." He died, after a short illness, Sept. 3d, 1874.

JOEL CROSBY ALLEN was born in Leominster, in the house now occupied by Mrs. James Bennett, Main street, Sept. 2d, 1817. His early life was spent on what is known as the Miles farm with his uncle, Mr. Joel Crosby. He was named for Mr. Crosby, and at his uncle's death inherited a share of his property. At the age of 18 Mr. Allen, in company with his father, began the general merchandise business in a store which stood where Allen's block now is. Later he was in company with Mr. Chas. H. Colburn, under the firm name of Colburn & Allen. For some years, after this firm dissolved, Mr. Allen was not in business. During this time the store was in charge of his brothers; first, of Geo. A. Allen and then of William T. Allen. Later Mr. Allen resumed the business in connection with Mr. Porter Kimball. When Mr. Kimball retired from the firm the business was continued by Mr. Allen until the formation of the First National Bank of Leominster, when he accepted the position of Cashier. At that time the bank was located in what was called "Allen's Building." After some years of faithful service he was forced, by pressure of public duties and private business, to resign; but he remained a director of this bank, and its successor, until his death. He was, also, a trustee of the Leominster Savings Bank.

As a public servant, Mr. Allen was most faithful and efficient. In 1845 he was elected Town Clerk and a few years later, Town Treasurer. He held both these offices at the time of his death. No other name was ever mentioned for either place in all the years he served the town as its Clerk and Treasurer. He gave time and strength to these duties without stint, though the pay was no adequate return for the service rendered. His was a long and most honorable public service.

Mr. Allen served the public in other ways. He was chosen to represent the town in the Legislature in 1852, and in 1853 was the chosen member representing the town in the State convention to revise and amend the constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In the year 1863 he was elected Senator for this district, giving satisfaction to his constituency and honoring the office more than the office could honor him. He was Treasurer of the Fitchburg and Worcester R. R., while in process of construction, and afterwards Vice President and Director in the Company.

For the larger portion of his life he held the office of Notary Public and Justice of the Peace, placing his seal upon hundreds of documents without fee, simply because he thought the other party needed the money more than he. Allen's Block, built after the destruction of the old store by fire, stands as a monument to his public spirit and the pride he took in his native town and its welfare.

Mr. Allen was, from his early youth, an active and earnest worker in the Unitarian Church. He shared, to the fullest extent, the work and burdens of both church and parish, and among its honored dead none are more honored than he, but he did not actually enroll his name as a member until the latter part of his life.

Of the minute things of his life and history it is not possible

to speak here: but this may be said in all confidence, that Leominster has no more honored name than that of Joel Crosby Allen, and she never need desire a more faithful and loving servant. Mr. Allen died at his home June 23d, 1884.

SAMUEL MERRIAM was born in Mason, N. H., July 29, 1818. He received his education in the public schools of that town, and, at the age of 17, was apprenticed to the firm of Scripture & Ames, of Mason Village, to learn the tin and stove business. He remained there until he was twenty-one years of age. He was then hired by a firm in Woonsocket, R. I., where he worked as a journeyman a short time, and subsequently went to Nashua, N. H. In the spring of 1844 he went to West Boylston, Mass., and commenced business for himself; but not feeling quite satisfied, he sold out his business in the autumn and went to Worcester, where he engaged in the same business, in company with P. D. Russell, remaining there until the year 1850, when he removed to Fisherville, [now Penacook] N. H., and formed a partnership with H. H. Amsden of that place.

In 1853, in connection with H. H. Amsden and B. F. Caldwell, he commenced the manufacture of pine furniture, under the firm name of Caldwell, Amsden, & Co. Wherever Mr. Merriam lived he took a deep interest in the welfare of the place. While there he served as Councilman and Alderman several years, and in 1853-4 was member of the Legislature at Concord.

In the spring of 1864 he came to Leominster and, in company with George Hall of Nashua, N. H., purchased the land and water privilege and commenced the manufacture of furniture under the firm name of Merriam, Hall, & Co. When he came to Leominster he brought with him the same public spirit which had characterized him in other places. He was soon chosen Chairman of the Board of Selectmen and Director of



SAMUEL MERRIAM.





the First National Bank, which offices he held at the time of his death.

When a young man he united with the Baptist Church in Mason, N. H., and all through his active life his church was very dear to him; he spent both strength and money for the promotion of its welfare. He was Deacon of the Central Baptist Church and Superintendent of the Sunday School many years. He was also interested in the Baptist Vineyard Association, being one of the Directors of the same at the time of his death, which occurred Dec. 30th, 1880.

MAJOR JOSEPH TENNEY, son of Joseph Tenney, was born in Bradford, Mass., Nov. 26th, 1776, and died Mar. 25th, 1858. He was a carpenter by trade and was for many years the only contractor in town. He was the first in this town to construct a building by the "square rule," the usual method being what was known as "the scribe rule."

During the greater part of his life he was interested in military affairs and was actively connected with the State Militia, and at the time the requisition was made, in the war of 1812, for artillerymen, the response came from the Old Leominster Artillery Company: "We will go as a Company," and they went to South Boston with Captain Tenney as their Commander. The British failed in their attempt to "lay waste the whole American coast," and after the sacking and burning of Washington were obliged to withdraw their army. The Company remained on duty until all danger was past when they returned, Capt. Tenney receiving a Major's commission.

MR. JAMES BURDETT was born in Leominster, on the old Burdett place, about one mile from the Center on the Lancaster road, where his father lived, and died at the age of 97 years, he having purchased it a few days after the battle of Bunker Hill, on which memorable occasion he was present. Mr. James

Burdett was one of the pioneers in the comb business, and had his shop at the home place, the work at that time being all done by hand. Mr. Burdett was, also, engaged in farming. He was a quiet, unassuming man who understood his own business, and attended to it. He was an old pensioner of the War of 1812, and the oldest man in town at the time of his death. During his life he held many offices of trust. He was elected the first "Free Soil" Representative to the Legislature of the State, and at times held other minor offices, such as Selectman, Overseer of the Poor, Assessor, etc. He did his work faithfully, and was a respected and valued citizen. He died at the home of his son, Mr. A. L. Burdett, on Grove Avenue, June 1, 1884, at the advanced age of 92 years, 10 mos., 16 days.

JOSEPH SUMNER DARLING was born in Leominster, June 8, 1802, and for nearly four score years he was closely identified with its growth and life, taking an active interest in all matters relating to the welfare of the place, and always discharging his duties with conscientious fidelity.

He was honored with the several offices of Constable, Assessor and Selectman, and represented his town in the State Legislature. As a citizen soldier he acquired the title of "Colonel" by reason of his connection with the then famous 9th Reg., Mass. Vol. State Militia, of which he was the commanding officer for some time. For eight years he was connected with the Custom House at Boston, as Inspector of Customs, and lost his position on account of his unflinching adherence to his political convictions. During this period he lived in the city and subsequently, for five years, in Belchertown.

In the political questions of the day he took great interest. He was an old line democrat, and never swerved from his political faith, while he lamented the deficiencies and departures of



MR. JOSEPH TENNEY



AMOS ABBOTT



CHAS. JOSEPH ARNEY



E. A. DE HAVEN



N. ALLEN



WM. B. SMITH



the party of his allegiance. He died as he lived, true to his convictions in this regard.

Mr. Darling was for 52 years a consistent member of the Orthodox Church of this place, uniting with it upon confession of Faith in 1831. This church was formed and for two years worshipped at the house of his mother, Mrs. Mary Lincoln, who was one of the four women, of the original ten persons organized as a Church Dec. 25, 1822. This house is now occupied by Mr. J. H. Johason on West street. Mr. Darling was always loyal to the faith of the church, constant in his attendance upon its worship and liberal in the support of its ordinances.

He had more than ordinary endowment of that quality so rare in possession or exercise, "good common sense." He was wise as a counsellor, firm and righteous as an administrator of trusts, and his decision in matters referred to him for judgment, were rarely reversed. Mr. Darling was a man possessed of a very retentive mind. Since the days of his early manhood he had seen two generations come and go, and in his later years his memory of those who had passed away was more comprehensive than his knowledge of, and acquaintance with, the living.

SILAS RICHARDSON was born March 22, 1802, at the old homestead of the family, in North Leominster, now owned and occupied by his brother, M. D. Richardson. He lived on the old homestead until he was twenty-one when he began life for himself, working on the farm in the summer and teaching school in the winter, for thirteen years. In 1846 he was appointed sexton of the town cemetery, which position he held for twenty-six years. His failing health caused him to resign the position to his son, Charles H. Richardson, who still holds it. Mr. Richardson was one of the hardest working men of his day, and most methodical and prompt in all his engage-



of tubs under the well-known firm name of Caldwell & Miller, in which business he continued till 1874, when he retired from active life. For some years previous to his death, in 1885, he was not actively connected with the business, though he still had a deep interest in business matters, and had at least an indirect connection with his former work in the person of his son-in-law, Mr. Lawrence. It may be said of Mr. Caldwell that he was a good business man, careful, painstaking and honest, against whose public or private life there was no reproach. He was not a man to thrust himself into notice. He was quiet and unassuming, but earnest and faithful. In his church relations as a member of the Orthodox church, he shared cheerfully its work and burdens, contributed liberally to its support and counseled wisely in its affairs. As a man and a Christian he is worthy to be honored and remembered.

AUGUSTUS WHITMAN was born at South Abington in March, 1821. His father, who died in 1878, aged nearly 94 years, was a prominent lawyer of Plymouth County, and served several terms in the State Senate. Mr. Whitman was educated in the schools of his native town and at Phillips Academy at Exeter. He was possessed of marked traits of character which distinguished him and rendered his life work successful. Although he suffered from physical infirmities for many years, his mind was clear and active, and as a financier he had few superiors in this part of the State. His career gives an example of what may be achieved through uprightness of character, honesty of purpose, a just regard for the rights and happiness of others and an indomitable will, which, in his case, triumphed over physical infirmities. He was just and exact in all his dealings, kindly in disposition, generous in his contributions to both public and private enterprises, and a friend to worthy young men, many of whom have cause to bless his memory for

material assistance and advice. Mr. Whitman made his home in this town for many years, where he gave considerable attention to stock raising, and was one of the most extensive stock breeders in Worcester county, and paid a larger tax into the town treasury, than any other single individual or corporation. His death was caused by an accident. He was killed very suddenly by being thrown from his carriage, in the orchard adjoining his residence at Worcester, on Saturday, October 2d, 1880. By the provisions of Mr. Whitman's will, among other benefactions, the Congregational churches at North Leominster and South Abington, received \$5000 each.

DR. JAMES M. RANDALL, son of J. M. and A. R. Randall, was born in Woburn, Mass., Oct. 9, 1857. He was a graduate of Harvard Medical School. He settled in this town, in the year 1878, opening an office in the old Post Office building, owned by Charles H. Colburn. He was young, ambitious and deeply interested in his chosen profession. At this time the age of Dr. Field made his large practice burdensome to him, and becoming acquainted with the young allopath, who was entering upon the same line of practice which he had followed successfully for half a century, a mutual respect and confidence resulted in a mutual benefit, Dr. Randall taking charge of the night work for Dr. Field and becoming quite intimately associated with him in his practice, and gained the confidence of his many patients, who naturally turned towards him when in need of a physician after the decease of Dr. Field. This, added to his own large practice, resulted in a heavy burden ; notwithstanding which, the doctor gladly devoted all his time and energies fulfilling what he considered his mission to those in suffering and distress. After being here some two years he moved into the Putnam house on Main street, his mother and sister coming to town at that time, to reside with him, and later on







EMERY TILTON.



WILLIAM TILTON.



EVERSON PRESCOTT.



AUGUSTUS KENDALL.

he purchased the Dr. Field place, remodelling it to suit his taste. It was at this time, and in the midst of arduous professional duties that sickness came, and he who had often been a source of strength to others, was himself unable to resist the destroyer. He passed away on the afternoon of November 4th, 1884, leaving the memory of a spotless character and an influence for good which is still felt in the community.

EMORY TILTON was born in Conway, Mass., April 24, 1817. He removed to Leominster in 1853, purchasing the Leominster House of Mr. E. Balch, and was proprietor of the same for some fifteen years. Soon after leaving the hotel he went into the Dry Goods and Grocery business in which he continued until 1873, when he was elected a member of the Water Board; and after the completion of the Works he was made the first Superintendent. This position he held up to the time of his death. In addition to his work in helping to secure a water supply for the town, may be mentioned his interest in the Fire Department. For many years he was a member of the Board of Engineers, serving at one time as Chief. His death occurred Jan. 1, 1880.

Though not a church member, Mr. Tilton was actively identified with the Orthodox Congregational Society, where, as in his home and among business men, he was highly esteemed for his sterling worth and integrity.

WILLIAM TILTON was born in Brighton, Mass., in 1814, and that same year his parents moved to Conway, where he lived until twenty-four years of age. In 1838, he went to Ludlow, Vt., and commenced the horn comb business, which he carried on for twelve years. He was there honored with various town offices, and also served as a Justice of the Peace. In 1852 he came to Leominster, and shortly after went into partnership with the Messrs. Look Brothers, under the firm name of Look,

Tilton, & Co., in the horn comb business. He was honored by the town with several important trusts, and was, for the last two or three years of his life, collector of taxes.. In the winter of 1869-70, under the preaching of Rev. Mr. Earle, he experienced religion and united with the Orthodox Congregational Church and ever after took an active interest in all its affairs. He was a member of the building committee of the new house of worship and one upon whom a full share of the labor and responsibility came, and by whom it was cheerfully borne. He was Treasurer of the Church at the time of his death, which occurred Dec. 7th, 1873. Mr. Tilton was married Nov. 24th, 1846, to Miss Cornelia A. Wyman. They had two sons, Wm. Francis and Edward B., the latter being one of the active business men of Leominster at the present time.

## CHAPTER IX.

### BIOGRAPHY BY FAMILIES.



No attempt will be made in this chapter to enter into the genealogy of the families referred to, but to give some items of family history, through the medium of brief sketches of the heads of families and most prominent members who are, or have been, residents of this town; presenting the most important facts in the life of each. The families selected

are the Morses, Burrages, Carters, Hills, and Joslins; each represented by numerous descendants in this immediate vicinity.

#### THE MORSE'S.

The families of Gardner and Augustus Morse are descended from Joseph Morse, of whom history gives us the following: Born in England, in 1587, emigrated to New England, 1635, settled in Ipswich, prior to 1641. It further says he was prob-

ably among the early but not the first proprietors and settlers of Ipswich, whose incorporation took place 1633, for it is evident from their records that he was acting as Commoner with them Dec. 28th, 1642, and the extent of his improvements four years later, indicate an earlier commencement than 1641. The destruction of their earliest records precludes the hope of discovering his relative standing in the community; but from the company in which he is found, the uncommon education in his family, and the references in his will to copies of precious religious books, it is inferred that he was a person of standing and piety; and that, by his prayers and godly example, as well as by his sacrifices and enterprise, he has imposed everlasting obligations on his race. His will is dated Feb. 2d, 1646. In this, he gave a dwelling-house to his wife, Dorothea, his new cloak to his son, Joseph, his great Bible to Hannah, and other Bibles and religious books to his children.

GARDNER MORSE was born in Dorchester, Mass., in 1811, came to Leominster in 1827, was apprenticed to Bezaleel Gibson for four years, to learn the comb business, bought his time the last three months, beginning business on his own account July, 1832, in company with Erastus Thompson, on West street, at what is now the corner of Exchange street. This firm was succeeded by Gardner Morse & Co., the business being removed to the old Stearns Mill, at the foot of Carter's Hill, where Smith's Piano Forte works are at present located. Later on the firm of G. & A. Morse was formed, and the building up of Morseville, begun, a large brick factory being built for the manufacture of combs; the firm employing some 100 hands in this line of business, doing a business of \$100,000 a year; a large business for that period. Afterwards, on the same stream, they established the piano business, and later on, the 'chair business, employing, altogether, several hundred



GARDNER MORSE.



MAJ.-GEN. AUGUSTUS MORSE.



ALBERT G. MORSE.



RALPH J. MORSE.





hands, necessitating the building of between twenty and thirty houses for their accommodation, besides the factories. Morseville, up to the breaking out of the war, was a very busy part of Leominster. General A. Morse being called at that time, by the Governor, to assist in fitting out troops for the war, the firm was dissolved, continuing from that time forward as G. Morse & Co., covering a business career of over fifty years. Mr. Morse married in 1833, Mary, daughter of Manassah Willard, of Sterling, whose death occurred in 1883, after a happy union of nearly fifty years, residing in the same house on West street, for a period of forty-five years, where a family of 8 children were raised to man and womanhood. Mary C., the eldest, died in 1872, George F., and Albert G., of whom mention will be made, Charles A., the youngest son, who died in 1883, was a graduate of the Institute of Technology, and had acquired quite a reputation as a chemist among those who knew him. Anna M. is a teacher of music and painting and resides in Leominster, as does Elizabeth A., who married, in 1859, John H. Rice, whose family consists of one son, J. F. Rice, engaged in business in Fitchburg, and three daughters, Mary, Helen, and Edith. Henrietta A. married E. K. Abbot, of Norwich, Conn., who died in 1870, leaving two sons, Willie and Charley, who reside, at present, in Norwich, Conn., with their mother. Sadie H., the youngest daughter, is Supervisor of Music in the public schools of Fall River.

GEORGE F. MORSE was born in Leominster Oct. 16th, 1835, in the house known as the Micah R. Ball house on West St. The following April his parents purchased what has been known for the past fifty years as the Gardner Morse place, on West street. Moving thereto brought them within School district No. 2, where the youth attended school until the age of twelve. In that year (1847) the Leominster High School was organized, with W. S. Phillips as its first teacher; and the sub-

ject of this sketch was admitted as a pupil at the first term. After finishing a four years' course at the High School, he commenced work in the importing house of Hill, Burrage, & Co., Boston. (Alvah A. and Chas. H. Burrage, of the firm, being natives of Leominster). After serving two years at this business, at a salary of fifty dollars the first year and one hundred the second, he returned to Leominster and was in the employ of G. & A. Morse, during the years of 1854-5-6, as book-keeper for the mill and manager of the grocery store connected with it. In 1857 the Morse Comb Company was formed, consisting of Gardner Morse, Wm. Booth, J. F. Goodhue, and G. F. Morse. The loss of the mill by fire caused the dissolution of this Company the year following. Later on, the firm of G. Morse & Son was formed, which continued until 1861, when G. F. Morse went into the army as clerk in the Quartermaster's Department. In 1862 he joined the 3d Division, 3d Army Corps, General Whipple, commanding. Continuing in the Quartermaster's department of this division from Harper's Ferry to Fredericksburg. He left the army in 1863, and, in company with General Morse, bought the city hotel property at Annapolis, Md. Disposing of his interest in the property the year following, he returned to Leominster, engaging once more in the comb business, until 1869, when he located in Boston, as proprietor of the Creighton House, on Tremont street. After a year's experience, and proving to his satisfaction that he could "keep a hotel," he sold the business to Mr. F. E. Balch and returned to Leominster. In 1871 the firm of G. Morse & Co. was formed, consisting of G. Morse, G. F. Morse, and A. G. Morse; for the manufacture of combs and dealing in horns. G. F. & A. G. Morse taking the latter branch of the business the year following, and under the firm of G. F. Morse & Co., continuing the same for twelve years. The prosecution of this business required extensive travel, taking him, in 1875,



to California, in 1880, to Cuba and Mexico ; going from Havana to the City of Mexico in company with Generals Grant and Sheridan, at the time Grant was completing his visit around the world.

In 1881 a trip was made to Europe. A portion of 1882 was spent in California, having been elected President of the South Spring Hill Gold Mining Co., of Amador, California, which office he continues to hold, spending a portion of his time at the mines. At the first annual election of Directors of the Wachusett National Bank of Fitchburg, held in 1876, he was chosen a member of the Board, which office he has been annually chosen to fill, up to the present writing. Upon the organization of the Hecla Powder Company, of New York, in 1881, he was chosen President, holding the office until 1888. He is, also, a director in the Leominster Gas Company, to which office he was chosen in 1884. He has held the office of Notary Public and Justice of the Peace since receiving his commission from Gov. Thomas Talbot, in 1874; and, also, filled numerous minor offices.

In 1859 he married Mary E. Tufts of Fitchburg, the result of this union being five children : Ralph G., the eldest, is the Sec'y of the Hecla Powder Co. of New York ; Alice A., is the wife of C. A. Joslin, Town Clerk and Treasurer ; Florence T., is the wife of W. A. Putnam, book-keeper, Leominster National Bank ; Margaret and Mabel, (the twins,) living with their parents on Church St.

ALBERT G. MORSE was born in Leominster in 1846, and began business for himself, at the age of 21, in Boston. In 1869 he went West and engaged in business in Illinois and Kansas for two years ; returning to Leominster in 1871, he formed a partnership with his brother, under the name of G. F. Morse & Co., continuing for twelve years in the business of Comb Manufacturers' Supplies. Afterwards, he ' 'ped to organize

the Hecla Powder Co. of New York, acting as Secretary of the Company for two years, with a residence in Elizabeth, N. J.

The year 1884 was spent as publisher of the *Leominster Enterprise*, the paper being turned over, at the end of that time, to the old proprietor, Mr. F. N. Boutwell.

In the spring of 1886, Mr. Morse organized the Bay State Shirt Co., of which Company he is at present Treasurer and Manager, employing some hundred and fifty hands. He was chosen a Director of the Northboro National Bank in February, 1880, holding the office until his removal to New York, in 1883.

In January, 1871, he married Emilia G. Christian of Detroit, Mich., having two children, Anna G. and Willard Ives. Their residence has been corner of West and Blossom Sts. for the past fifteen years.

AUGUSTUS MORSE was born in Worcester in 1817, (May 16,) where he lived 10 years, when he went with his parents to Fitchburg, where the next four years were spent ; part of the time in school and the balance working in the old stone mill. The year following was spent in Peterboro, N. H., working for his father, who was engaged in the manufacture of paper. He then returned to Fitchburg, at the age of 16, accepting a situation as second overseer in the mill owned by General Ivers Jewett, attending school that winter in the old brick schoolhouse on Blossom street ; Col. Ivers Phillips being the teacher. In 1832 he came to Leominster to learn the comb trade, serving an apprenticeship of four years to his brother Gardner, at \$50 a year and board, at the end of which time the partnership of G. & A. Morse was formed. This partnership continued until the outbreak of the war in 1861, when, as Major General of Mass. Militia, he was summoned by Gov. Andrew to take command, in Boston, of all troops which were reporting for duty, and to be despatched for the seat of war. He was chiefly instrumental in placing General Butler in command of the First Brigade,

which left Mass. the 16th of April and cut through the blood-thirsty mob at Baltimore, securing the Capitol to the Union.

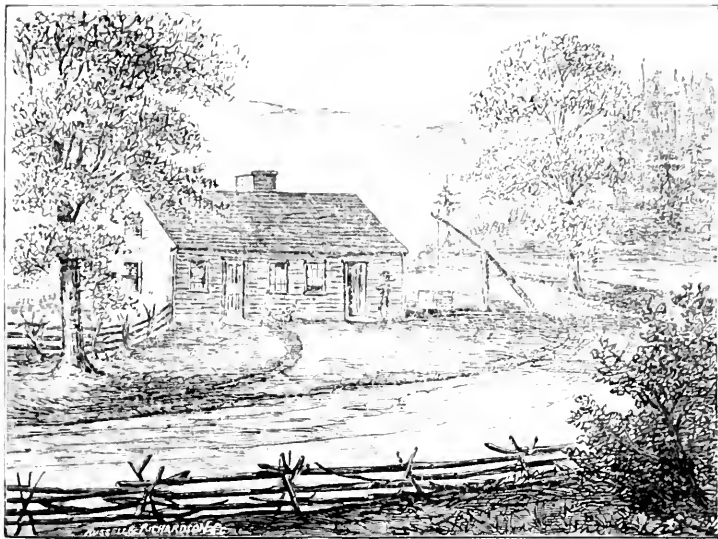
His military career began at the age of 18, when he joined the Leominster Rifle Company, holding the various offices, up all the grades, receiving his commission as Captain from Gov. Briggs. He was elected Major of 9th Regt., M. V. M., then Colonel, serving two years, when he was elected Brigadier General. He was chosen by the Legislature of 1855-6 as Major General of 3d Division, M. V. M. He received his commission from the Secretary of State, and held the office until August, 1861, when he resigned and was made Col. of the 21st Mass. Regt. He was sworn into service of the U. S. on the 21st of that month and started, with his Regt., 1000 men, strong, with orders to report at Washington, D. C. He was stopped at Baltimore by order of Secretary of War, Cameron, to report to Major Gen. Dix, then commanding the Dept. of Baltimore, and by him ordered to proceed with his Regt. to Annapolis, Md., to take command of that military post. Extending his command to Annapolis Junction and a part of Baltimore & Ohio R. R., (the only conveyance by rail from the North to Washington) to guard that railroad for six miles, and also extending some thirty miles on Chesapeake Bay and south toward the Potomac river. While there, in command as Col., he was appointed by President Lincoln, Military Governor of that section; serving until the following summer in this capacity, when he resigned the office. In Sept., 1862, he was commissioned by President Lincoln, Quartermaster, with headquarters at Fredericksburg, filling the position with honor and ability until he retired from the service in the fall of 1863, since which time he has not had on a uniform; preferring the peaceful walks of life to the blood and carnage of war, or the vain-glory of political office.

Col. Morse held numerous civil offices during his residence in Leominster, being chosen as one of the Selectmen at the

age of 29; serving on the Board the year the brick town house (our present town hall) was built. He served, also, as Collector of Taxes, and in many minor offices; holding the office of Justice of the Peace for 14 years. He married Caroline, daughter of Manassah Willard, of Sterling, residing for many years near his brother, Gardner, on West street; bringing up a family of eight children, two girls and six boys. Eliza J., wife of Abner W. Pollard, formerly in the clothing business in this town, but who is at present the head of the Butterick Publishing Company in New York City. This Company have in their immediate employ some 800 persons, besides having some 3500 branch offices in the United States and England. Harrison A., manager of the factory of the Butterick Publishing Co. in Brooklyn, N. Y. Julius T., who is located in Kansas. Jerome E., a graduate of the U. S. Naval Academy, was placed on the retired list, on account of his eye-sight, after serving the government, in official capacity, for eleven years. He is at present Treasurer of the Hecla Powder Co. of New York City, and is, also, largely interested in mining in Colorado. Joseph H., is a lawyer in Brooklyn, N. Y., where he has recently located after some ten years in Kansas, where he was at one time a member of the State Legislature, also, U. S. Silk Commissioner. Elbridge W., resides in New York, and is a traveling salesman. Carrie F. resides, at present, with her father in Brooklyn. The youngest, Frederick E., after a short but promising business career, was cut down by an accident to his knee, while in bathing in Whalom Pond, which resulted in fever, causing his death.

### THE BURRAGES.

The families of Deacon William and Capt. Josiah Burrage, of Leominster, are descended from John Burrage who was born in Norton Subcourse, a parish of Norfolk County, (near Norwich,) England. According to the researches of Hon. A. A.



HOUSE IN LEOMINSTER.  
BOUGHT BY WM. BURRAGE IN 1767 AND IN WHICH HE DIED IN 1820.



OLD CHURCH IN NORTON SUBCOURSE, BUILT IN 1387.





Burrage, we find by the parish records that he was baptized April 10, 1616, and that in all probability he was sixteen years old at the time of his father's death, remaining at home assisting his mother in the care of the farm until he attained his majority in the spring of 1637. Owing to the tyrannical rule of Charles I, in forcing ship money tax upon his people and in other ways exercising an arbitrary authority over the Kingdom, many of his subjects, in 1637, abandoned their native land and following the example of the Pilgrim Fathers, emigrated to America and settled in the wilds of New England. Among this number was John Burrage of Norton Subcourse. It is not known by what ship he came, but his name appears on the town records of Charlestown, Massachusetts under the date of 1637, and from a description of his "possessions" in the same book, it is probable that the estate was located within the limits of the Charlestown Navy Yard, near the western entrance, at the foot of Water street, and that he owned and operated the ferry between Boston and Charlestown in company with Francis Hudson, who lived on the Boston side, the landing place being located on the premises of the owners. In addition to his duties as Ferryman Mr. Burrage served several years as "Clerk of the Market." The market place was in what is now Charlestown Square. He was also chosen "Salt Measurer," by the town. In 1662-4 he, in company with his son, John Burrage, Jr., were engaged in shipping horses to Barbadoes. Thus it will be seen that he was a busy and no doubt a prosperous man. He had been blessed with a large family of children and was an active and a useful citizen, but his last days were clouded by misfortune. In 1672, which was some thirteen years before his death, he met with an accident, being thrown from a horse, which occasioned the loss of his reason. In 1677 his eldest, and most promising son, John Jr. died of small pox, during the epidemic in Charlestown, in which

ninety-one persons died during the year. Following immediately upon this, the eldest of his two surviving sons, Jacob-like took advantage of his father's mental incapacity to get possession of his property. This scheme was, however, only temporarily successful and eventually the property was divided among all the rightful heirs.

DEA. WILLIAM BURRAGE, of Leominster, was born Sept. 2d, 1768. He was apprenticed at an early age to Benjamin Hawks, a tanner in Leominster. Having finished his apprenticeship he commenced the tanning and currying business for himself in a small way in the north part of the town, where, through industry and frugality he succeeded in gaining a competency. In 1814 he was chosen a deacon of the First Congregational Church which office he filled until his death in 1844. He was for many years a prominent citizen, and was often chosen to fill offices of trust and responsibility. He was twice married. First to Mary Joslin of Leominster, by whom he had six children. His second wife was Roxanna Sanderson of Lancaster, by whom he had eight children.

CAPT. LEONARD BURRAGE, was for many years one of Leominster's most valued and prominent citizens. Born March 14, 1797, he died April 18, 1888, in the house built by himself seventy years ago, directly opposite his birthplace in the North Village. As the eldest son of Deacon Wm. Burrage, he inherited a love for honest work and the belief that labor was honorable. Learning the trade of tanner in his father's shop, soon after his majority, he was admitted to a share in the business, and later became sole owner, building it up to a large and profitable position. Associated with his cousin, George S. Burrage, in 1836 he began the manufacture of shoes, being one of the pioneers in that industry in New England, and in 1844 retired with a fortune. Never blessed with children, with the cordial help of his wife, (Mira Allen) he



CAPT. EONAR H. BRACE



devoted himself to relieving the distress of the needy, and to broad works of charity. Most of his generous gifts remain unknown, save that they were almost countless. He contributed largely to the building of every church in town, giving especially to the Congregational Church in the North Village, later giving a lot of land with a handsome parsonage building on it, and by will \$6500 more. By will he gave large sums to various charities; \$5000 to the Town of Leominster; \$3000 to the worthy poor; \$2000 to the Public Library; \$20,000 to Olivet College, Michigan, without condition, which will be devoted to building the "Burrage Library." Earnest, honorable, shrewd and clear headed, his ability and sterling character early commanded the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens, and he was often honored at their hands. He was a Captain in the militia at 21, then a most honorable position, and for many successive years was Moderator of town meetings. He took an active part in town affairs, serving in every important town office, being many years on School Committee and Board of Selectmen. Capt. Burrage represented the town with great ability in the General Court in the years 1833, 1843, 44, 45, and during a long series of years was interested in nearly every town matter. Until old age compelled his retirement he was President of the Leominster Savings Bank, also a director in the Rollstone National Bank of Fitchburg and other corporations.

A great, brave and kindly heart is stilled, the weak, the aged and the poor have lost a friend who never failed them, by the passing on of Capt. Leonard Burrage.

GEORGE SANDERSON BURRAGE, the oldest son of Dea. Wm. by his second wife, was born May 15, 1823. At the age of 25 he moved to Ashburnham, bought a large tract of wood land and engaged in the manufacture of chairs. A few years after his brothers, William F. and Charles W., joined him in the

enterprise, and built a large chair factory, and carried on a large business ; they gathered so much of a village about their works, that the Government granted a Post Office with the name of Burrageville. Unfortunately this enterprise did not continue many years, on account of the factory being destroyed by fire. Soon after, George Sanderson went with his family to San Francisco, Cal., and engaged in the furniture business, and later on, went into grape raising in Napa Valley, where he died May 16, 1876, at the age of 53 years. He was twice married ; his first wife was Martha G. Phelps, of Leominster, by whom he had two daughters, Clara and Ellen. By his last wife, Aurelia Chamberlain, he had a daughter, Cora C., who survived him but a short time. Charles D. and Albert C., are their only surviving children. Both entered the legal profession. Chas. D. is in the practice of his profession in Gardner, Mass., and is President of the Lithotype Publishing Co., of that place. Albert C. is in the practice of his profession in Boston.

WILLIAM F. BURRAGE, the second son of Dea. William, by his second wife, was born April 5, 1826. As has been said he joined his brothers, George Sanderson and Charles W., in the Burrageville enterprise under the firm name of Burrage Brothers, but sold out his interest not long before the Chair Factory was burned. While in Ashburnham he was Justice of the Peace and served the public in other ways. He held the office of Post Master and was also station agent until 1867, when he with his family, returned to Leominster, where he took an active interest in town affairs, was a prominent and valued citizen. He was for several years a director in the First National Bank of Leominster. In 1872 he took a journey to California and Oregon, on account of his health, which was much impaired, and to visit his brothers. He returned without being much improved. He married, July 25, 1849, Eveline W. Lawrence, who survives him. He died Nov. 11, 1873, leaving three



GEORGE SANDERSON BURRAGE.





children, two daughters and a son. The daughters were Mary E. and Hattie M., very amiable young ladies of great promise, who survived him barely a year. The son, Leonard F., is in the Dry Goods business in Leominster.

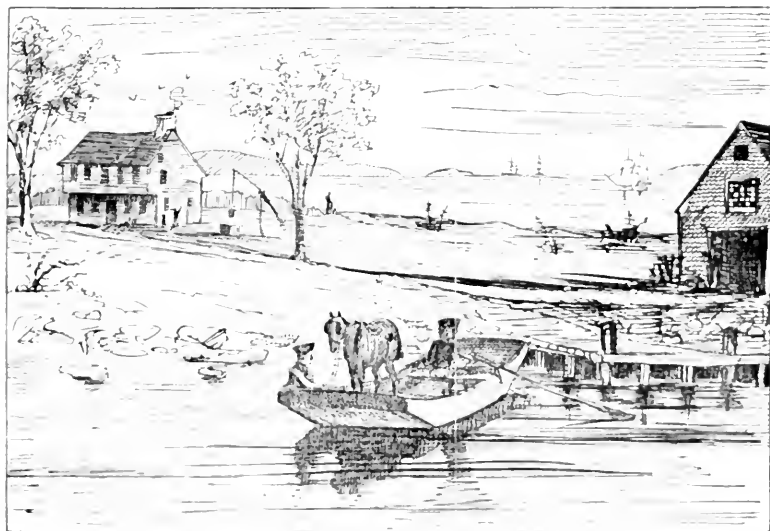
CHARLES W. BURRAGE, the third son of Dea. William, by the second wife, was born Aug. 25, 1830. As has been said he was one of the firm of Burrage Brothers. After the Chair Factory was burned he went to New Haven and completed his college course at Yale University. He, with his family, then went to Portland, Oregon, where he carried on a large business as Civil Engineer, for many years. He was a prominent and influential citizen. In 1886 he retired from active life and, with his family, went to Spokane Falls, where he now resides enjoying the fruits of his labor. He married Sarah J. Hills of Leominster. Their son Edward, a very worthy young man died in 1887. William H. and Charles F. are their two sons now living, both of whom are Civil Engineers and located in Washington Territory. Two daughters of Dea. William Burrage survived their father. Mary Jane, who was a young lady of great promise, died at the age of twenty-two years. The other daughter, Martha Ann, who married Porter M. Kimball, of Leominster, died November 4, 1863.

CAPT. JOSIAH BURRAGE was born Aug. 16, 1770. He remained at home working on his father's farm or for the neighboring farmers, until thirty years of age, when he married March 7, 1800, Ruth Kilburn, a daughter of William Kilburn, of Lunenburg. He probably had saved of his earnings up to that time five or six hundred dollars, barely enough to pay for stock and tools for a farm and scanty furniture for his dwelling. With the assistance of his brother William, who offered to become jointly responsible with him for the purchase money, he, in the spring of 1801, bought the intervale farm adjoining the homestead place. The young couple moved on to their farm

and there for forty-five years they lived, rearing a family of thirteen children and paying for the place. During that time from fifty to seventy-five acres were added to the original purchase, another barn, cider mill and other outbuildings were erected, the house enlarged and finished in modern style, the whole paid for and the farm then entirely freed from debt. The magnitude of the task accomplished can be partially realized from the fact that the interest payable on the debt incurred was fifty cents a day, and that it required the equivalent of two bushels of potatoes or four pounds of the best butter to pay one day's interest. It is evident that under the circumstances he could not have supported his family and paid for his farm by any ordinary day's labor. He evidently did not believe in the eight and ten hours a day notions of the present day. He was blessed with a compact, hardy and vigorous physical organization, and from his youth until he reached the age of seventy-five years, probably averaged fourteen or fifteen hours a day of hard work. In the winter he would leave his bed two or three hours before sunrise, and after making a fire in the kitchen, fill the tea kettle and hang it on the crane in the fire-place, then go to the barn and "fodder" his oxen and fifteen or twenty other cattle. Meanwhile his wife would rise and prepare breakfast, which was always eaten by candle light. After breakfast he would yoke the oxen to the cart or sled, take his dinner, put up in a small tin pail, and about an hour before the sun was up, start for the wood lot, about two miles distant, put on a load of wood and carry it to Lancaster village or Leominster, each about four miles distant from the wood lot. The day's work was usually the carting of two loads of a cord each, and then return home, travelling twelve to sixteen miles with an ox team, beside loading and unloading the wood. He would reach home two or three hours after sunset, put up and feed his team, eat a hearty supper, which he would find pre-



BIRTH PLACE OF MRS. RUTH KILBURN BURRAGE 1780.



CHARLESTOWN FERRY AND RESIDENCE OF JOHN BURRAGE 1657.

latter bequest was duly fulfilled by his executors Sept. 1875.

EMORY BURRAGE, second son of Captain Josiah, was the only one of nine sons who remained at home to assist his father on the farm until of age. When twenty three years of age he married Mary, the daughter of his uncle, Thomas Burrage, and the young couple took up their abode with her parents, in the house bought by their grandfather, William Burrage, in 1767. (See engraving). They took charge of the farm and cared for the old people as long as they lived. In 1848, Mr. Burrage was chosen a deacon of the First Congregational (Unitarian) Church, and was also called upon by his fellow citizens to fill other offices of responsibility and trust. Owing to the infirmities of age, the labor of carrying on the place became burdensome, and Deacon Burrage and his wife disposed of the farm and moved into the North Village. The farm was bought by Mr. T. Dwight Wood of Westminster. The old house was torn down about 1835, and a more modern one built in its place, and a few years before leaving, Dea. Burrage built an addition, so that the house is now very unlike what it was.

GEORGE SUMNER BURRAGE, fourth son of Captain Josiah, was born Aug. 10th, 1806. When twelve years of age he was apprenticed to his uncle, William Burrage, to learn the tanning and currying business. After serving his full time, he went to Boston, remaining several years in business for himself. In 1830, returning to his native town, he entered into partnership with his cousin, Capt. Leonard Burrage, in the old shop where he learned his trade. In 1845 this co-partnership was dissolved and for some years after he was engaged in the manufacture of shoes, but for the last twenty years of his life was not engaged in any special business. He was considered a sagacious business man, and was often placed in positions of responsibility and trust by his fellow townsmen. He represented his town in the Legislature in 1851, and cast, as he was sometimes pleased to term it, the vote which elected Charles Sumner to the Uni-

ted States Senate, he being elected by one majority. His sympathies were with the Anti-Slavery and Temperance reforms in which he actively engaged at a time when those questions were extremely unpopular. At the time of his death he was one of the trustees of the Leominster Savings Bank and a member of the Water Board. For quite a number of years he was a member of the Orthodox Congregational Church, and in the formation of the North Leominster Church he took an active interest. He died suddenly, of heart disease, at his residence in North Leominster, Sunday morning, Feb. 25th, 1877.

ALMIRA, the eldest daughter of Josiah Burrage, was born Feb. 16th, 1810. She lived with her parents until she married James H. Marshall of Leominster. After a long and severe illness, from which she appeared to be recovering, she died suddenly, Nov. 10th, 1872, in Canada, where she had gone a few weeks before on account of her health.

The remaining daughters married out of town. SARAH ANN, the second daughter, married David McClure of Cambridgeport. MARTHA, the third daughter, married John Dallinger of Cambridge.

ELIZABETH SMITH, the fourth daughter, married Peter Farwell of Fitchburg. Their eldest daughter, Catherine S., married James N. Steele of Chicago, and now lives in that city. Mr. and Mrs. Farwell resided in Leominster, at one time, on the homestead farm of her father, until 1870 when, all but the youngest of the children having gone to Chicago to live, they also removed to that city.

The sons not already mentioned, engaged in business and spent the greater part of their lives in other towns or cities.

JOHN, the second son, was educated as a lawyer.

JOSIAH, the third son, was the first of the family to try their fortunes in Boston.

WILLIAM, the fifth son, worked for a time in the paper mills at North Leominster, and afterwards learned the trade of tan-

ner and currier of his uncle, William, and his cousin, Leonard Burrage, and, at twenty-two years of age, went to Boston.

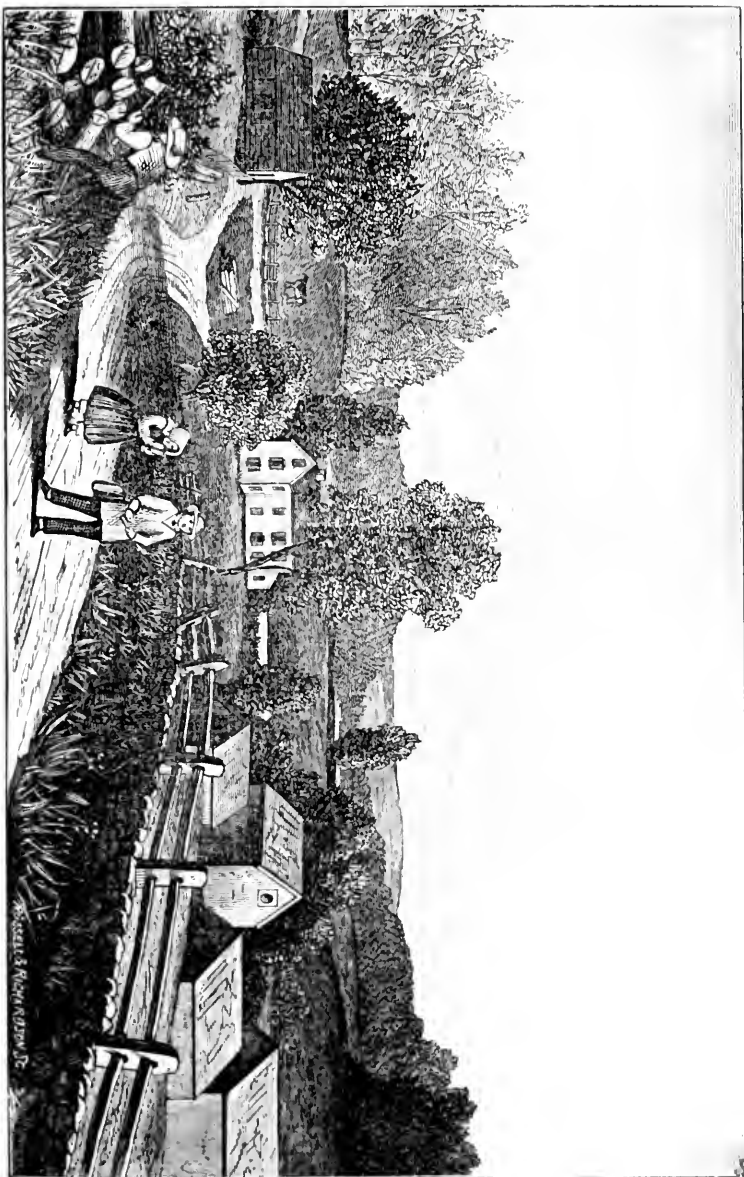
JOSEPH, the sixth son, also left the farm and apprenticed himself, as did Geo. S. and William, to learn the tanning and currying business at the old shop, then in charge of his cousin Leonard and George S. He, too, went to Boston and established himself in business in 1837.

JOHNSON C. the seventh son, early showed an inclination for trade, and at fifteen years of age, entered the country variety store of George H. Hills in the center of Leominster. In 1835 his brothers, George S. and William, found him a situation in Boston.

ALVAH AUGUSTUS, the eighth son, at the age of sixteen, went to Boston at the proposal of Johnson C., and entered the store of Richardson & Burrage to learn the business of selling woolen goods. He was afterwards interested as a partner in several firms, his last business connection being with his brother, Charles H., and two other partners, under the firm style of Burrage Brothers, & Co., until Dec. 31, 1883, when Alvah A. Burrage retired from active participation in trade. At the great fire in 1872, all of the Burrages doing business in Boston, lost heavily; Burrage Brothers & Co., about \$100,000; J. C. Burrage & Co., about \$50,000; and Reed & Clesson, with whom Joseph Burrage was a special partner, lost \$28,800.

While in active business Mr. Burrage served two years 1867 to 69, in the Legislature, and since his retirement from trade has served two years 1875-6, on the Board of Aldermen of Boston. About the year 1855 he became interested in genealogical matters, and commenced making investigations and collecting material for a genealogical history of the New England branch of the Burrage family. Owing to business engagements and other duties, the materials and preparation of the work was not accomplished until 1877, when the Burrage Memorial was published. Through the courtesy of Mr. Burrage

HOMESTEAD OF CAP. JOSIAH BURRAGE AS IT APPEARED IN 1830-1846.







we are allowed to gather from its pages many of the facts here given, and also to republish some of the engravings of special interest to Leominster people. The old church at Norton Subcourse, built in 1387, is described as "a single pile and thatched, with a round tower and three bells." The engraving is a good representation of the church as seen by Mr. Burrage in 1886.

The cut of the Capt. Burrage homestead was engraved from an oil painting by a young artist by the name of Burrage, an Englishman, painted in 1846-47.

Reference has already been made in the Military chapter, to the patriotic sacrifices of members of this family during the Rebellion. In order to make the list complete we give herewith the names of those of the tenth and eleventh generations, who enlisted in the Army and fought in defense of our country. Joseph Perrin Burrage, of Arlington, Thomas Fairbanks Burrage, of Roxbury, Henry Sweetser Burrage, of Fitchburg, William Allen Burrage, of Leominster, Edward Carter Burrage, of Boston, George Francis Burrage of Leominster.

### THE CARTERS.

Among the first to settle upon the territory known as the Lancaster New or Additional Grant, afterwards, (July 1740,) incorporated as the Town of Leominster, were four brothers, sons of Samuel Carter of Lancaster. Nathaniel, who settled on Bee Hill in 1735, Jonathan, near Chualoom pond, Oliver and Josiah, whose lands extended from the bridge on Granite street to the top of Monoosnock; Oliver's being on the south side and Josiah's on the north, these two farms and a part of the one on Bee Hill being still occupied by direct descendants of the original owners. The tradition is that the father, Samuel, gave to his sons these farms, they choosing the location in the order of their birth,

These four brothers were of the fourth generation from Rev. Thomas Carter of Woburn, who is supposed to have been the first of this branch of the family in New England, thus: Rev. Thomas, 1st, Rev. Samuel, 2d, Samuel, 3d, Nathaniel, Jonathan, Oliver and Josiah, 4th. From these, with but few exceptions, were descended all the Leominster Carters.

Of the families of Nathaniel and Jonathan, very few remain who bear the Carter name.

Of the descendants of Oliver, who have made Leominster their home, was Mr. Wilder Carter, son of Dea. Ephraim, born Feb. 10, 1774, died Feb. 29, 1848. He occupied the original farm of his ancestor, represented the town in General Court in 1829-30-31, was engaged in the quarrying of granite on Mon-oosnock and the manufacture of brick. He had three sons, George R., born Aug. 3, 1806, who, after doing business in Boston and California, is spending his declining years among the scenes of his childhood. William Sawyer, born March 8, 1811, died June 6, 1847. He was associated in business with his father and interested in the improvement and progress of the community. Two daughters survive him: Mrs. Caroline L. Chaney, wife of Rev. George L. Chaney of Atlanta, Ga., whose summer home is on Carter Hill, and Mrs. Catharine S. Blunt of New York city. The other son died unmarried.

CAPT. JAMES CARTER, son of Josiah, above mentioned, born in Leominster, Dec. 12, 1778, died May 26, 1850, inherited the parental estate, the north farm on Carter Hill. He had eleven children who were esteemed and honored both in Leominster and the communities in which they settled. Two sons were educated at Harvard College, James G., graduated in 1820, and Henry in 1830. Artemas lived in and near Chicago, Ill., and was active in the support of Antioch College. The only surviving child is Josiah H. of Boston. Of the daughters only one, Catherine, born Sept. 17, 1803, died Feb. 11, 1887, resided,

after marriage, in Leominster. She married, Jan. 28, 1824, James H. Carter, born in Lancaster, Mass., Feb. 6, 1794, died in Leominster, March 13, 1871, being his second wife. He was for many years a prominent business man of the town. Of their six children two are living, George E. Carter and the wife of Howard M. Lane.

SOLOX CARTER, son of Capt. James, born in Leominster, Sept. 4, 1801, died June 23, 1879. He lived and died on the ancestral farm of his father and grandfather. He was, when a young man, a successful teacher in the schools of his native town, afterwards a useful member of the School Committee for many years, representative to the General Court in 1849-50, an intelligent and skillful farmer, esteemed and respected in all the relations of life. His children were :

SOLOX A., born June 22, 1837, educated in the common and high schools of the town, resided for a short time in Keene, N. H., where he enlisted in the army, during the war of the Rebellion, and entered the service as Captain of Co. G., 14th N. H. Vols., was afterwards promoted, and has been for several years Treasurer of the State of New Hampshire, residing at Concord.

WILLIAM W., whose sketch has already been given in the Educational chapter.

Two daughters, one, the widow of the late Henry T. Thurston and the other, the wife of John M. Lockey, of Leominster.

ADDISON C. CARTER, son of William, also a descendant of Josiah, was born in Leominster, June 16, 1832. He taught in our Public Schools, and attended Groton Academy. He afterwards spent three years in the West. Returning East in 1862, he spent about six years in Worcester. The last fifteen years of his life he was employed in J. H. Lockey's Piano Factory. He died Jan. 21, 1887. He was a faithful, industrious man and was respected by all who knew him.

BARTIMUS CARTER, son of Joseph Warren, who also de-

scended from Josiah, was born in Leominster, Dec. 27, 1800, and died April 3, 1879. He spent his whole life in Leominster, was interested in all that concerned the welfare of the town and its inhabitants, had a kindly greeting for all, particularly the young. He was a comb-maker in the days when the work was mostly done by hand. His surviving children are an unmarried daughter and Chauncy W. Carter.

CHAUNCY W. CARTER, son of Bartimus, born in Leominster, Nov. 5, 1827, was educated in the public schools of the town, and at Wilbraham Academy, studied law in the offices of Joel W. Fletcher, Esq., of Leominster, and Bacon & Aldrich of Worcester, was admitted to the Bar in June 1857, began the practice of law in Gardner, Mass., in August of the same year, returning to Leominster five years later. He has been a member of the Board of Assessors and of the Selectmen and was appointed Trial Justice in Sept. 1883. He has two sons, Alfred F., born in Gardner, Mass., May 10, 1862, now residing at Sherborn, Mass., and Robert L., born in Leominster, March 30, 1869, studying law in the office of his father.

The facts relating to this family are taken from the Carter Memorial, for the use of which, we are indebted to Mrs. Chauncy W. Carter who gave several years to the labor of collecting material and carefully preparing it for publication in that volume.

### THE HILLS.

The family of Hills was for many years identified almost exclusively with the comb business of Leominster, the members of which are referred to in that connection. Mrs. Chas. W. Drake, of this town, a member of the Hills family, is interested in preparing a genealogy of the family, which she hopes at some future time to publish.

## THE JOSLINS.

This family is one of the oldest in the history of the town. Peter Joslin, a grandson of the ancestor of the family, in America, early in the seventeenth century, purchased a large tract of land in the north easterly part of the town, (Leominster) known as "Joslin Hill." He was a son of Nathaniel and Sarah Joslin, and was born at Lancaster in 1665. He lived to the great age of 94 years. His grandfather, Thomas Joslin, with his wife, Rebecca and five children, the youngest, Mary, but one year old at the time, came to America from England in the ship "Increase", in 1635. He took up his abode at Hingham for a few years, and thence removed to Watertown, where he resided until 1653, when, with his son Nathaniel and the other members of the family, he joined with a few others and settled in the valley of the "Nashaway," afterwards Lancaster. The records show that Thomas Joslin and Nathaniel Joslin signed the first agreement or covenant for a local government, Sept. 12, 1654. Thomas Joslin died 1660, leaving a will recorded at Cambridge. Nathaniel Joslin married Sarah King of Marlborough, 1659, and resided at Lancaster until the destruction of the settlement by the Indians in 1676, when he escaped with his family to Marlborough, where he afterward lived and there died, 1694, leaving a will which is on record at Cambridge.

Peter, on attaining his majority, returned to Lancaster and occupied the ancestral lands. He married Sarah Howe of Marlborough. This wife and three small children were killed by the Indians, July 18, 1692, while the husband and father was absent from home. His second wife and an infant child suffered a like fate. As the issue of a fourth marriage there were born three sons, one of whom was John, and it is from him that the writer's family descends. The order of the generations are, Thomas (1) the Emigrant, Nathaniel (2), Peter (3)

John (4), John (5), Elias (6), Elias (7), Charles L. (8). John (4) was active in town matters. John (5) was in the Revolutionary war when a young man, and became an honored and respected citizen. Like his father he was deacon of the church, and for some thirty years town treasurer. He was also representative to the General Court.

History in detail shows that the family furnished its quota in all the struggles in behalf of civilization, independence, and the preservation of the country's liberties. Mary Joslin, the infant of one year when the family came to America, became the wife of Roger Sumner, son of the emigrant William Sumner, who settled in Dorchester. Roger Sumner signed the Lancaster covenant, 1659. Sumner and family escaped the massacre of 1676, and soon after removed from Lancaster to Milton where he afterward lived. His wife survived him several years, dying at an advanced age. Roger Sumner was ancestor of the late Hon. Charles Sumner. Nathaniel Joslin and Roger Sumner were executors of Thomas Joslin's will. From this ancestry the Joslin family has become numerous and is scattered through many of the states. The writer has had correspondence with members of the family in eight different states of the Union, and all trace their lineage back to Thomas as the common ancestor.

Sir Henry Joslin (Josselyn) who was Deputy Governor of Maine under Mason, left no issue. Dr. John Joslin, his brother, and author of "New England's Rarities Discovered," published in London, 1672, and "Two Voyages to New England," published 1675, lived and died a bachelor. The claim made by some writers that certain branches of the family sprang from one or the other of these sources, is not founded in fact. Thos. Joslin who settled in and died at Lancaster, 1660, is the founder.

MAJOR ELIAS JOSLIN was born Nov. 10, 1795, and died July





11, 1874. He was a life-long resident of Leominster, and took a lively interest in military matters. He was a member of Capt. Tenney's company, at the time the requisition was made for troops in the war of 1812. He was promoted through the different grades until he held a major's commission. He married, Nov. 17, 1799, Elizabeth Stearns, who died Jan. 24, 1885. Their surviving children are William, the eldest, who resides in Illinois, Charles L. in Leominster, and John E. in New Hampshire, Mary E., married N. G. Thom, and resides in Haverhill, James T. is a resident of Hudson, Mass., Martha A. (Mrs. W. B. Tisdale) in Leominster, Col. Geo. C. in Boston, and Ellen L. who resides in Cambridge, Mass.

CHARLES L. JOSLIN, son of Major Elias Joslin, was born in Leominster, Jan. 12, 1823, attended the common schools of the town, and at the age of 16 was apprenticed to learn the comb-makers' trade with Thomas G. and Joseph G. Merriam, who carried on business in the old house where Mr. Joslin's grandfather and father both lived, and where the town farm buildings now stand.

Having finished his apprenticeship at 21 he remained until the death of Mr. Thomas G. Merriam, some two years later, in 1845, when he came into town, and in company with another young man, the late Dana Graham, bought out Mr. Luther Longley, and carried on business under the firm name of Graham & Joslin, locating in the second small building beyond the Welcome blacksmith shop on Central street. Here their business increased so rapidly that at the end of two years they were obliged to look for more room with sufficient water power, to secure which some thirty-five acres of land with a dwelling house thereon was purchased, and the dam which flows the pond known as the Union Comb Co. pond was put in. Here in 1846-47 Mr. Joslin built a factory. He also commenced housekeeping in the dwelling referred to, in which Mrs. Mun-

ger now lives, on Union St. In their new factory the firm carried on business some two years, when Mr. Joslin sold his interest to his partner, and engaged in business with his brother-in-law, Mr. E. G. Adams, building a factory on Union street. In 1857 this building was sold to Pollard & Butterick, removed to near the hotel and used by them in the clothing business until it was destroyed by fire. The firm occupied a portion of the Lockey shop, east of and adjoining the Old Colony R. R., which was burned and again rebuilt by Mr. Lockey. Mr. Adams being in failing health, Mr. Joslin purchased his interest and in the spring of 1871 bought of Putnam & Phelps a tract of land on which he built the main part of the present A. W. Williams factory, and in company with W. L. Palmer and A. W. Williams began the manufacture of horn and rubber jewelry. The firm was then Joslin, Palmer and Williams, but after about five years Mr. Palmer sold out to the remaining partners and the business was conducted by Joslin and Williams until 1883, when Mr. Joslin disposed of his interest to Mr. Williams and retired from active business. Mr. Joslin has been a director in the National Bank from the time of its organization in 1864, and is at present Vice President of the Leominster Savings Bank. He also served the town several years on the board of Selectmen, and in 1859 represented his district in the Legislature. He married, Oct. 28, 1846, Martha J. Adams, of Townsend. Their children are Martha D. who married John T. Brown, for many years in the establishment of A. T. Stewart in New York; Clara A. who married J. Wm. Wetherbee of this town; Mary E., and Charles A., the youngest, who married Alice, daughter of Geo. F. Morse, and is the present town clerk and treasurer of Leominster.

JAMES T. JOSLIN, (to whom we are indebted for the facts relating to the Joslin family), is a resident of Hudson, Mass.

He made a choice of the legal profession and is now a successful practitioner in that town. He has for years been interested in securing facts relating to the history of this family, and has now a large amount of valuable material which it is his purpose at some time to publish.

COL. GEORGE C. JOSLIN. Sketch in the military chapter.

## CHAPTER X.

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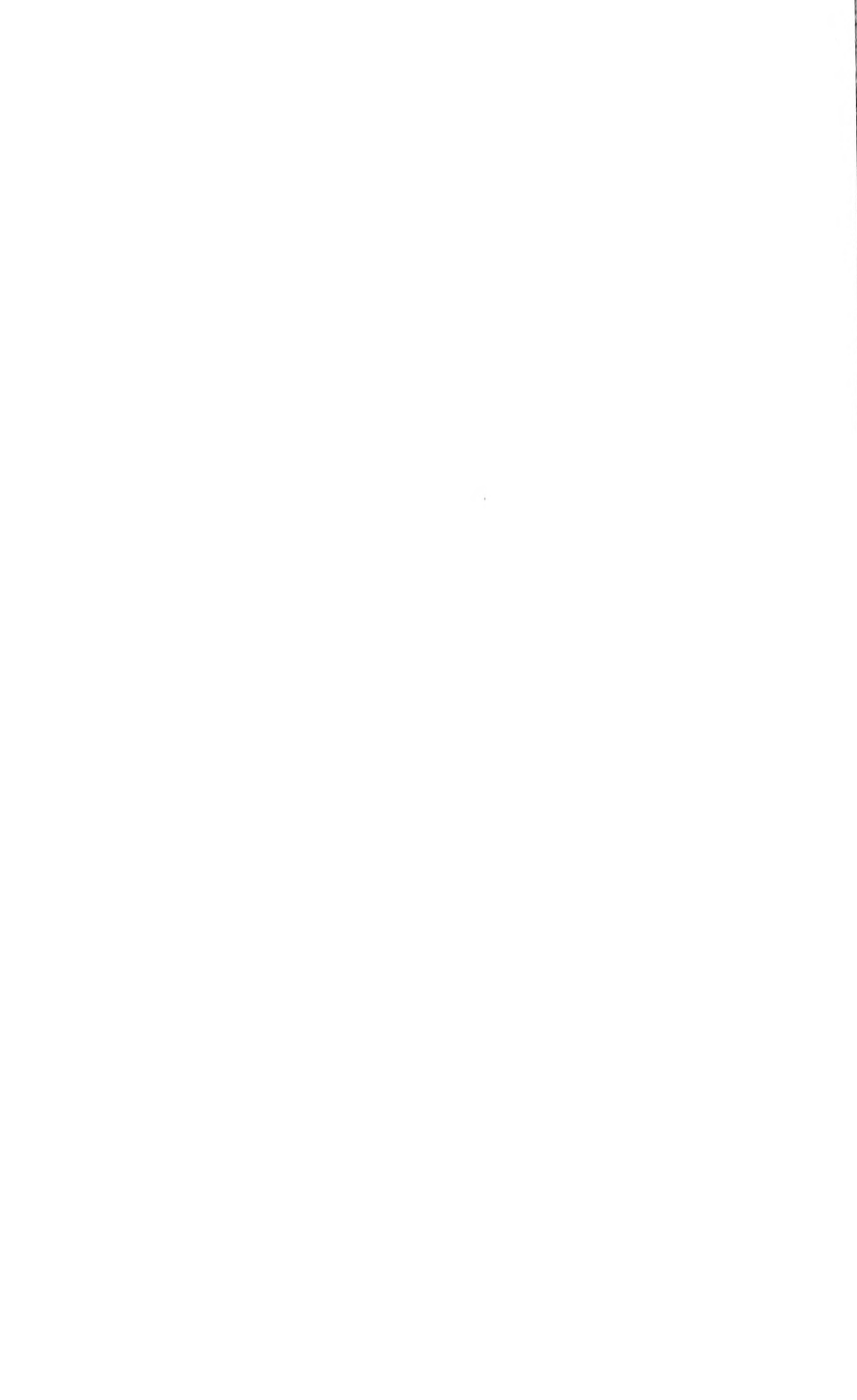
### BIOGRAPHICAL—CONTINUED.



R. JOEL SMITH was born in Leominster, August 23, 1812, and was, at the time of his death, just past seventy-six years of age. He was a son of Joel and Abigail Smith and was one of four brothers. The oldest only is now living. At an early age he was left to the care of an uncle, Mr. James Divoll, whose residence was on Prospect street, North Leominster. On a farm, located off this street, as it turns towards Shirley, Mr. Smith spent his boyhood until his fourteenth year. He was educated in the Public Schools of this town. At the age of fourteen he went to Wilton, N. H., for the purpose of learning the carpenter's trade. His reason for giving up this plan may be stated in his own words. "My weight at that time was ninety pounds. After eleven months service my weight was reduced to eighty pounds. Taking the advice of my uncle and elder brother I returned to Leominster and served an apprenticeship with Jonas Colburn, for the comb business." That this change was a wise one, Mr. Smith's skill as a workman and success as a manufacturer of these goods is sufficient proof. When his trade was learned, after the man-



JOEL SMITH.



ner of those times, Mr. Smith worked for some years, as a journeyman combmaker. In 1836 he began business for himself in company with George W. Smith and John Nourse. The shop where they manufactured combs, stood just south of the spot now occupied by the "Leominster House." Some years later Mr. Smith was in business with Abel Chase and Oliver Patch, in a building which stood on the site of what was afterwards the Union Comb Shop, now the Richardson Carriage Co.'s Works. When the building was enlarged and the Union Comb Co. formed, Mr. Smith became President of the Co., the other members being Mr. Stephen Tisdale, John Bates, James Gallup. Mr. Smith was President of this company for five years, from 1867 to 1872. The property was wholly destroyed by fire in 1872, and after the shop was rebuilt, the company was changed and Mr. Smith withdrew. He soon started again for himself in a part of the Lockey Piano Shop, which then occupied the site of Valpey & Anthony's Shoe Factory. Here in 1879, Mr. H. R. Smith, a son of Isaac Smith, was received into the business with his uncle. The firm was known as Joel Smith and Company, and continued business until 1885, when Mr. H. R. Smith withdrew. During this time the firm met with a severe loss in the fire which wholly destroyed that part of the Lockey Piano Shops, which stood south of the railroad. After the fire the business was again started in a shop connected with the factory of W. D. Earl & Co. Here Mr. Joel Smith continued to manufacture horn goods after Mr. H. R. Smith left the firm, until he moved (within the present year) to more convenient quarters in a part of the comb shop of Mr. A. W. Williams. Here he was doing business with Mr. John Bates at the time of his death.

The circumstances attending the death of Mr. Smith were, as follows: As usual Mr. Smith had witnessed the annual parade of the Fire Department, in the work and good name of

which he was greatly interested. He was, so far as known, in his usual health. Late in the afternoon he had spent some time in conversation with Mr. Gardner Morse as to matters of mutual interest and memory. As the early evening was cool, Mr. Smith said he would go to his home and get warm before it was time for supper in the Town Hall. He was present at the supper, and took part in the speaking which followed. Previous to the supper, he and Mr. F. A. Whitney had made this agreement: That Mr. Whitney should call upon Mr. Smith for a speech and upon its delivery should pay a certain sum—to be named by Mr. Smith—to the Fire Department. This arrangement, so pleasantly conceived, had just been as happily completed, when Mr. Smith turned to leave the Hall and died almost instantly of heart disease.

Some mention should be made of Mr. Smith's work outside of his own private business. He was a man who never thought that all his time and energy ought to be consumed for his own personal profit. So far as town matters go, Mr. Smith was a liberal and public spirited citizen. Of this his whole history is ample proof. Nothing which would in his judgment aid the town, was foreign to his thought or labor. He served the people well, and was honored by them in many ways.

Mr. Smith was one of the original corporate members of the Leominster Savings Bank and a member of the Board of Trustees from its first organization in 1867, also a member of its Investment Committee from 1873 until his death. He was appointed a Director of the First National Bank of Leominster, Sept. 20, 1875, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of his former partner, Oliver Patch, and was elected President in 1884. He was a Director in the Leominster National Bank from its organization in July 1884. During the more than thirteen years he was Director, (with the exception of the time he was absent as a member of the Legislature), he was absent



from the regular weekly meetings of the board only ten times.

Mr. Smith often served and honored his town in places of public as well as private trust. It must suffice to mention in this connection his service in the Legislature in 1882-3. As a Representative he did faithful and efficient service, honoring himself and the office which he held. Any mention of Mr. Smith would seem incomplete which did not make prominent his connection with the Anti-Slavery Reform and the cause of temperance. In those times when it cost something to be an anti-slavery man, Mr. Smith was such a man. He was a member of the Leominster Anti-Slavery Society, formed in 1838. Later he was associated with such men as Dr. Joel S. Bingham, Dea. Isaac Cowdrey, Isaac Smith, Jonas Colburn and Oliver Patch, in the Leominster branch of "The Anti-Man-Hunting League." At the home of Mr. Smith there was always a warm welcome for the fugitive slave. The story cannot now be fully told, but it should be said that in all the work of those hot and eventful years from 1840 to 1861, Mr. Smith bore earnest and honorable part.

Mr. Smith was also an earnest, consistent, and persistent friend of temperance. He gave time, money, and effort to the cause. Whatever he undertook he did with a will. His whole heart was in his work. Leominster has had few more honored citizens.

In 1835 Mr. Smith married Miss Eliza Taylor, who survives him.

[The foregoing sketch from the editorial columns of the "Enterprise" is given here instead of in the business chapter on account of the sudden death of Mr. Smith at time of publication.]

JONAS COLBURN. (Sketch in Manufacturing Chapter.)

DANA GRAHAM was born in Leominster, May 9, 1821. He was the eldest of a family of twelve children, and was appren-

ticed to the comb making trade when sixteen years of age. After being associated with Mr. Charles L. Joslin for three years he removed, in October, 1850, to Lancaster, Pa., where he associated himself with John Shaffner of that city, and the comb manufactory at the corner of Market and James streets, was built. The firm of Shaffner & Graham was continued until 1870, when Mr. Shaffner died. Mr. Graham attended to all the details of the large industry until 1881, when he took his eldest son, John S., into partnership, the firm of D. Graham & Son, continuing until the death of Mr. Graham the present year.

Mr. Graham was a man of excellent business qualifications. His ability was recognized in his adopted city. He was elected a member of its council for several years and was also chosen the first alderman of the ninth ward. In politics he was unwavering in his support of the Republican party. He was prominently identified with the Masonic and Odd Fellow fraternities. He took an active interest in Fire and Building loan Association matters. He was President of the Washington Fire Company and Treasurer of the Union Building and Loan Association from its organization. Mr. Graham was married Jan. 19, 1848, to Miss Lucy M. Grant, of Northfield, Vermont, who survives him. Ten children blessed this union, five of whom are living, three sons and two daughters; John S., Dana H., G. Atlee, Mrs. Lennie E. Herzog, and Miss Emma C., who was educated as a nurse in Blockley Hospital, Philadelphia, and who faithfully attended her father in his last illness. Mr. Graham died April 14th, 1888, and was buried with Masonic honors.

WINTERS DAY SOMERS was born in Rochester, N. Y., May 8, 1825. At an early age he removed to Newton, Conn., where he learned the carpenter's trade. In 1852 he came to Leominster with Herman Botsford, (who returned to Connecticut in



JONAS COLBURN.



DANA GRAHAM.



WINTER W. MERS.



WILLIAM H. H. H.



1855); they began the manufacture of Horn Buttons in Morseville, in a building which has since been burned. Two years later he removed to the Carter shop where Rockwell's mill now stands. Here he formed a co-partnership with a Mr. Platt under the firm name of Platt & Somers. Upon the dissolution of this firm he purchased the shop on Central street where he carried on business until the time of his death.

Mr. Somers conducted a safe and successful business. He had the ability to use tools, was his own carpenter, blacksmith and general mechanic. He was careful and methodical in doing business, and prompt to meet his obligations. His death was caused by an accident on Monday morning, April 30, 1883, one of the saddest accidents that had occurred for years. While attempting to unwind a broken belt without stopping the power or slackening the speed, a loop of the belt caught around his wrist, drawing him up over the shafting, causing instant death.

Mr. Somers was not only a prominent business man but a public spirited citizen. He was a member of Wilder Lodge, F. and A. M., for about twenty years, and was also connected with Jerusalem Commandery of Fitchburg, in whose affairs he took a deep interest. In Oct. 1852, previous to removing to Leominster, he was married to Miss Phoebe Sherman, who, by her sympathy and encouragement did much to help him in his business. They had two children, both daughters, one of whom is the wife of Henry Edgerly and the other is the wife of A. S. Paton.

At the funeral services Wilder Lodge and Jerusalem Commandery attended in a body, and many places of business and stores were closed as a mark of appreciation and respect.

HIRAM W. PITTS was born Dec. 2, 1814. The following year his father, James Pitts, removed with his family to that part of the town of Lancaster, Mass., which is now included in

the town of Clinton, and built a grist and saw mill and a small cotton factory on the mill privilege now occupied by the Lancaster mill.

Hiram was employed from the age of eight to eighteen in the cotton mill, and the latter part of the time in the grist mill. Upon the death of his father he, in connection with his brothers, ran the cotton mill in the manufacture of satinets warps, until 1842, when he sold his interest to his brothers and went to Worcester to run a woolen mill. The mill property in Lancaster was soon after sold to E. B. Bigelow, the present Lancaster mills corporation being formed and succeeding to the ownership. From Worcester Mr. Pitts went to West Fitchburg, taking charge of a mill for Col. Ivers Phillips, two years after removing to Fitchburg, taking on contract the factory now a part of the Pitts mill, then much smaller than at the present time. After two years he went to Saquoit, N. Y., and in company with Edwin F. Wheeler began to run a mill by contract. For several years thereafter he was interested in various manufacturing enterprises in different places.

In 1849 he entered into a ten years' partnership with Benj. Marshall, one of the founders of the long celebrated Black Ball line of packet ships between New York and Liverpool, who had withdrawn from commerce and engaged in manufacturing. The factory was located at Middleboro, Vt. In addition to this in 1867 he took into his own hands the factory in Fitchburg, removing his family to Leominster, Mass. In 1876 he erected a new mill in Fitchburg, now known as the Pitts mill.

Mr. Pitts married, in 1842, Betsey S. Burditt of Leominster, who died in 1843. In 1846 he married Mary A. Merriam of Fitchburg. The children are Abby E., B. Marshall, and Etta L. B. Marshall Pitts was the efficient assistant of his father in the office, and upon his death, Dec. 22, 1881, succeeded to the business. He was also chosen a Director in the Safety



Fund National Bank of Fitchburg, a position his father held up to the time of his decease.

WILLIAM DURANT was born in Lancaster, Mass., 1803; he came to Leominster in 1840, where he pursued his avocation as blacksmith, until within a few years of his death, in 1879. He was deeply devoted to the interests of Free Masonry, being one of the founders and first Master of Wilder Lodge in this town. The great moral reforms of the present age found in him an earnest advocate, being among the first to enlist in the cause of temperance, for which he suffered quite a little persecution. "Dare to do right," was his motto through life.

In 1830, he was married to Marina Prescott, of Groton, Mass. Two sons and a daughter reside in Leominster.

SAMUEL GARDNER WILDER was born in Leominster, June 20, 1831. The family, in 1844, settled in Illinois, then on the frontier. From thence the subject of this sketch crossed the almost trackless mountains and plains to California in 1852. There he was employed by the Adams Express Co., having, as an associate therein, his future Honolulu fellow citizen, Mr. R. W. Laine.

Mr. Wilder arrived in Honolulu in the Clipper Ship White Swallow, in the year 1857. The same year he married there Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Dr. G. P. Judd, the bridal couple making their honeymoon trip in the White Swallow to New York. On returning to the Islands Mr. Wilder went into sugar planting at Makawano, Maui, but this enterprise was brought to an unfortunate termination by the destruction of the plantation by fire. Afterwards in company with Dr. Judd, he started a plantation at Kuola, Oahu, but owing to the poor soil this was abandoned. He was next engaged in the auctioneer business with E. P. Adams & Co., and later in the lumber business with Hon. J. I. Dowsett, soon after, buying Mr. Dowsett's interest. This continued one of the leading branches of busi-



ness to the last. In nothing, however, was Mr. Wilder so identified with the life of his adopted country, as in the remarkable development of Inter-Island Steam Navigation. The flotilla which he gathered together consisted of the steamers, Kilauea, Likelike, Mokolii, Lehua, Kinau, and the Kilama Hon. After the arrival of the Kinau in 1883, Mr. Wilder formed the Wilder Steamship Co., that has since conducted business under his presidency. The corporation also acquired the barque J. A. King, employing her in the large lumber business of Wilder & Co., between Honolulu and Puget Sound.

Mr. Wilder's political record, no less than his commercial career was marked by his rigorous individuality.

For his active services in securing the election of King Lunalilo, the latter appointed Mr. Wilder to the House of Nobles. Upon the death of Lunalilo, Mr. Wilder espoused the cause of the late King's rival, David Kalakaua. The present King summoned Mr. Wilder to his Cabinet in 1878 in which he was Minister of the Interior until August 1880, when he retired suddenly at the inception of the Moreno fiasco. He had been raised in the meantime to membership of the Privy Council of State, continuing a member of the House of Nobles also. Mr. Wilder's Administration of the Department of the Interior was characterized by a well defined policy of internal improvements. Besides the construction of roads and bridges and other public conveniences, he initiated and carried out the project of a Marine Railway, which was constructed in 1882. In 1881 he built the Kohala railroad from Mahukoua to Niulii on the Island of Hawaii and in 1884, acquired the Kahului Railroad on Maui by purchase. One thousand men were furnished employment by Wilder & Co., the Wilder Steamship Co., the Railroad, and others of Mr. Wilder's large concerns.

As President of the Legislature to which he was elected



HENRY A. NEWELL



last year Mr. Wilder showed the qualities of a practical parliamentarian, prompt and precise in his rulings ; combining rare tact with energy in the dispatch of business. The King had conferred upon Mr. Wilder the distinctions of a Knight Commander of the Royal Order of Kalakaua, and Grand Officer of the Royal Order Crown. His death occurred July 28th, 1888, after about a month's illness. The funeral was attended by the Cabinet Ministers and the Legislative Assembly in a body, and by a concourse of people probably more numerous than had attended any funeral there except of royal personages.

Mr. Wilder leaves a widow and three sons, two daughters and four grandchildren. His first born son lost his life by an accident. His son, G. P. Wilder was married last year and one of his daughters is Mrs. C. L. Wight of Kohala. The surviving brothers are Wm. C. and John K. Wilder.

MR. JACOB COLBURN was born in Leominster, May 23d, 1806. He learned the comb makers' trade of James H. Carter. He was married April 25, 1831, to Miss H. Spaulding, and in 1840 went into business for himself, continuing in the same for a quarter of a century, until the time of his death which occurred July 1st, 1865, having spent his whole life in Leominster.

MAJOR THOMAS SIDNEY BENNETT, fourth son of Calvin and Hannah Fletcher Bennett, was born in Leominster, May 22d, 1810. He attended school in his native town until he was fourteen years of age, when he served an apprenticeship of seven years in the horn comb business, with the late John Kendall of this town. He was married at the age of twenty-three years to Sarah Newton Boutelle, who, with their two daughters, is now living, two sons having died ; seven grandsons survive. In 1837 he removed to Philadelphia, but in a few months returned to Leominster, where he followed his trade until his death, March 9th, 1881.

"Major Bennett," as he was frequently called, was enrolled

in the Leominster Artillery Company before the age of manhood, and received his commission as Major, in the second Brigade, in 1838, from Gov. Edward Everett, being honorably discharged in 1841, when the Battalion under his command was disbanded. His great interest in military affairs continued through his life, and during the late war he did all in his power to aid and comfort those who were comrades with his only son, the late Capt. Eugene A. Bennett ; making visits to Washington, Poolesville, Md., and other places, while spending a winter at Annapolis, employed for the soldiers, and also went to Antietam battlefield, in company with Rev. Eli Fay and Dea. I. Cowdrey, to relieve the needs of Leominster soldiers.

The poor fugitive from slavery's bonds, was welcomed as a guest in his home and many of dusky hue were there entertained. In 1850 he purchased a pew in the Unitarian Church, and was for several years its sexton. No hour was too early or too late, for him to faithfully TRY to attend to his duties. A member of the L. F. D., he served as steward and foreman of the old "Torrent No. 1," devoted and efficient, ever ready to do his part when action was needed. At social gatherings, or when sickness and death came to his friends and neighbors, his kindly services were often rendered, and when past the allotted age of man, after a frugal and temperate life, he was called to depart, leaving friends to enjoy the reward of his labors, he went in peace to his rest.

A. M. POLLEY was born in the town of Shirley, in 1810. He came to Leominster at an early age, and worked for Col. Asa Longley at the shoe business from the age of 14 to 21. For a time he engaged in business as a custom shoe maker. He was afterwards associated with Isaac Smith in the firm of Polley & Smith, in the manufacture of boots and shoes at wholesale until 1860. The firm of A. M. Polley & Son was formed in 1862, occupying a building near the hotel, since



JACOB COLBURN.



MATTHIAS S. BENNETT.



A. M. POLLEY.



JAMES B. GALPIN.



EBENEZER.



HENRY A. F.



burned, afterwards a building across the Square where Wood's block now stands, and later removing to the present location in Monoosnock block. Mr. Polley was an active temperance man, and an ardent supporter of the Anti-Slavery cause in its darkest days. He was interested in military matters and was one of the early and prominent members of Wilder Lodge, F. & A. M. He died Sept 18, 1880.

JAMES B. GALLUP was born in Clayville, a village in the town of Foster, Rhode Island, July 28, 1821, and came to reside in Leominster about the year 1840.

He entered the employ of G. & A. Morse and Jonas Colburn, working at the trade of comb maker. He afterwards went to Northboro, where he formed a copartnership with Calvin B. Cook for the manufacture of combs. Subsequently in that place he engaged in business with Samuel Woodward, and on his own account entered into numerous speculations, among them being the business of buying and selling woodland, in which he was very successful. Returning to Leominster some time previous to the war he engaged in the comb business with Philander Woodbury. Afterwards in the same business with B. F. Blodgett. After the dissolution of this firm in 1867 he became a member of the Union Comb Co. In 1872 the comb factory of this corporation was destroyed by fire, after which a new company was organized with Mr. Gallup as President, an office held by him until his last sickness.

At the age of nineteen he married Miss Orissa Wheelock of Leominster, and their only son, George B. Gallup, was one of the first to enlist from this town, and gave his life as a sacrifice to the cause of the Union.

His second wife was Dorothea Wheelock. He married for his last wife Sarah F., daughter of Jacob Colburn, who survives him.

Mr. Gallup was a successful business man, but never sought



public or political office. He was known among his acquaintances as a kindhearted, generous man. He died at his residence on Lancaster St. August 31, 1884.

PHILANDER WOODBURY was born in Bolton, Mass., Oct. 2, 1831. When a boy he came to Leominster and learned the comb makers' trade of Emerson Prescott. He then went to Northboro and worked at his trade a few years, and while there married. He returned to Leominster in 1859, going into business with Mr. James B. Gallup. Three years later the partnership was dissolved and he bought out the business of Mr. Prescott, carrying it on for two years, when he was again with Mr. Gallup for a year, at the end of which time, in 1867, he felt obliged to seek a change of climate. He went to Minnesota and engaged in buying and selling lands, but he failed to regain his health and died Dec. 13, 1871.

LUKE WILDER was born Sept. 25, 1786, and died June 22, 1864. He was a blacksmith by trade, as were his father and grandfather before him, and in 1811 he built the dam on Mechanic street now owned by John Mather, where for many years with trip hammer works he manufactured axes, scythes, and other edge tools, sending them abroad, many of them to the great west, so that (as Gov. Everett once remarked) "one could hardly travel in any direction without finding a Leominster axe."

HENRY A. WILDER, son of Luke Wilder, was born Aug. 6, 1812, and died Dec. 15, 1882.

MAJ. AMOS HAWS. In 1795, Benjamin Haws, the grandfather of Mr. M. D. Haws, purchased a large tract of land in the southwest side of the Nashua river, including the property now owned by the family. The next year he moved here from Norfolk County. At that time his son Amos was only two years old. The family had, it would seem, a natural aptitude for the boot and shoe business. At least four generations, in a direct



AMOS HAWS.



line, have made the manufacture of these articles a successful calling. But the father of Major Haws was not wholly occupied with the boot and shoe business. He, also, owned and worked a farm. On this farm young Haws was employed until he reached his majority. He then began the manufacture of boots and shoes in the shop owned by his father. This shop stood nearly opposite the present home of Mr. M. D. Haws, North Leominster. This business he continued until he bought the Grist and Saw Mill from the heirs of Israel Nichols, in 1830. A few years later he sold the mills to Jonas Kendall & Sons, who bought them to get full control of all the water power. When there was not water sufficient for both their paper mill and the grist mill, the latter was stopped, to allow the paper mill to run. The farmers and others were so disappointed and troubled because they could not get their grain made into meal as heretofore, that, knowing Mr. Haws had a water power privilege farther down the river upon his own land, they made up a subscription, which they presented, to encourage him to build a new mill. Upon the receipt of their subscription in 1837, he built a saw, grain and flour mill upon his land, which required a canal of about 100 rods from the main stream. During the nine years while Mr. Haws run this mill, the average quantity of grain ground annually was 15,400 bushels, nearly one-fifth of which was wheat, besides running his saws in the mill most of the time during each year.

In the History of Leominster, by David Wilder, on pages 123-4-5, we find this statement: "There is one fact connected with the erection of the mills, too good to be withheld from posterity, viz.: From time immemorial, it has been the custom, in this town, whenever the mills, dwelling houses or other buildings of individuals shall have been swept away by floods, or destroyed by fire, for the inhabitants, generally, to raise funds by subscription or otherwise, to enable such individuals

to rebuild, without the expectation that such funds will ever be returned, but I have never known of but one instance of funds having been raised in this way to encourage an individual to commence a new work. That a handsome sum was raised by subscription, and given to Major Haws to encourage him to undertake the work in his private capacity. This he did, and after improving the mill profitably for a number of years with characteristic honesty and honor, he called on all the contributors then living, and very unexpectedly to them, refunded to each the full amount of his subscription." It may be added to the foregoing record, that some of the contributors remarked when receiving back their subscriptions, that they wished that they had given more, for Major Haws had kept the money for them, and now they had it, while if it had been left with them, they should have spent it. Mr. Haws believed in the efficiency and took a strong interest in the Military arm of the State and Nation. When the call came for State troops, in 1812, to report at Boston, he was just recovering from a severe illness. But he was very earnest in his desire to go with the Artillery Company of which he had lately become a member. His father, however, strongly opposed such action on the boy's part, and only yielded on the personal assurance of Captain Tenney that he would look after him. Then the father took the boy in his carriage and started after the company, overtaking them at Concord. Then young Haws left the carriage and took his place in the ranks and marched to Dorchester Heights. When the company was ordered home a few weeks later, he returned with greatly improved health. At a later period he was Captain of the Company, and Major of the Battalion of Artillery to which the Company belonged. Mr. Haws served the town on the board of Overseers of the Poor and on various Committees. He had the confidence, to an unusual degree, of his fellow citizens ; he was a prompt and efficient man of bus-

iness and no matters of his own, or interests of others committed to him, were left until to-morrow, when they could and ought to be cared for at once. Major Haws belonged to the sturdy, downright and upright, New England type of character, which sets its seal upon the Nation's charter of liberty.

CAPT. THOMAS HILLS, son of John and Sarah Hills, was born in Leominster, April 7th, 1784. He was, for many years, a prominent manufacturer of horn combs, conducting the business at his place, located in the Southwesterly part of the town familiarly known in those days as "Manchester," but more generally known as the "Hill Road." In those days this portion of the town, where now no manufacturing whatever is carried on was a noted locality for the manufacture of combs, and many of our old comb makers served their apprenticeship with Thos. and Charles Hills.

It seems worthy of mention that for the distance of nearly a half mile, in this neighborhood, in a northerly direction from his home there were ten or eleven families, and nearly every one bore the name of Hills, and those who did not were in some way related to that family.

For many years he was identified with the military. In 1811 he was appointed a Sergeant in a company in this town, then attached to the 4th Reg., 2d Brig., 7th Div. of the militia of Mass. The Regiment, at that time, was commanded by Lieut. Col. Israel Nichols of this town. Later on he was promoted, respectively, as Ensign, Lieutenant and Captain of the company, receiving this latter commission May 31st, 1816, his commission being signed by His Excellency Gov. Caleb Strong. He filled this position until his resignation Feb. 17th, 1818. In the fall of 1814, during the war of 1812, Capt. Kilbourn's company, in which he was at that time holding the position of Ensign, was ordered to Fort Warren, in Boston harbor, for garrison duty, where they remained for sixty days.

He was twice married, first to Dolly, daughter of the late Capt. John Buss. In 1836 she died, and March 4th, 1838 he was again married to Nancy W. Colburn. He died April 2nd, 1851, aged nearly 67 years. His three children, Josephine, Thos. A. and Chas. Wm., still survive him.

MOSES D. RICHARDSON. In July, 1630, among the English immigrants who accompanied Gov. Winthrop to America, came three brothers named Richardson, who settled in Charlestown, Mass.

One of their descendants, Silas Richardson, who was born in Medway, Mass., Jan. 12th, 1762, bought a farm in Leominster, and settled here in 1790. Besides carrying on this farm he also worked at his trade of wheelright. The house he occupied had been a garrison in 1777. In this house his youngest son, Moses D. Richardson was born in 1805, and died July 24, 1888, having spent his entire lifetime of eighty-three years under the same roof, except when he attended school in Groton. He joined the Baptist Church in 1828, sixty years ago, was its clerk from 1835 to 1838, and in 1840 was chosen deacon. He was also appointed to various services in the Ecclesiastical Society. His nature was quiet and unassuming, but he was nevertheless, an active member of the church in his younger years, and when age, with its increasing feebleness, came upon him, he still continued to attend church, longer, perhaps, than in the judgment of others would have seemed prudent and advisable. He died as he lived, leaving the memory of a good life well ended with those who survive him.

JAMES A. RICHARDSON, elder son of Moses D. and Abby W. Richardson, was born at North Leominster, July 19, 1854. After leaving the High School he resided at home until 1877, when he went to California. During the past ten years he has been principally engaged in real estate business in Oregon and California.



MOSES D. RICHARDSON.





DR. DANA P. RICHARDSON, younger son of Moses D. and Abby W. Richardson, was born at North Leominster, Oct. 14, 1855. He graduated from the Leominster High School in 1876, from the Harvard Medical College in 1882, practiced four years in his native town, and in Nov. 1886, removed to Gloucester. Oct. 18, 1888, he married Fannie L. Benton of Fitchburg, and at present, is successfully practicing at Bay View, Gloucester.

JACOB AUGUSTUS KENDALL, was born in Ashby, Mass., in 1827. He learned the painter's trade in Lexington, and came to Leominster when about 19 years of age, and started in business for himself. He was a man of unusual activity, indomitable perseverance and pushed ahead to success.

In business matters he was thoroughly wide awake, and, in money matters, especially in dealing with his help, was always prompt and reliable.

Mr. Kendall never held town offices; he was too busy to seek office and when urged to accept it steadily refused. He was for twenty-two years a member of the Masonic fraternity, and a regular attendant at the Orthodox Congregational Church. In his home relations Mr. Kendall was peculiarly happy, and all his spare hours were gladly given given to his family. He died Nov. 13, 1886, at his home on Main street.

CHARLES CARTER was born in Peterboro', N. H., Jan. 25, 1802, and died in Leominster, March 23, 1887. He came to Leominster, when a young man and engaged in the tailoring business, making all the military and band uniforms in this section. Subsequently he manufactured combs, and was the first paper box maker in town. He took a deep interest in military affairs and was promoted from Captain to Lieut. Colonel. He was also a prominent mason and an active business man.

MR. JAMUS LITCHFIELD, was born in Scituate, Mass., on Christmas day, 1807, and died in the 81st year of his age. At

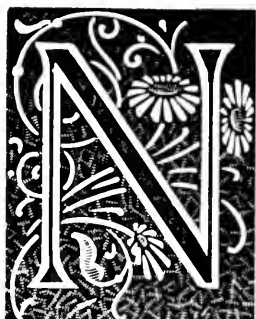
ten years of age, his father's family moved to Leominster. In 1827, he united with the Orthodox Church, then a struggling organization only five years old. Of this church he was a member 61 years. He was a conscientious, upright, straightforward man, respected and esteemed by his fellow-citizens. He served the town faithfully as Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor. His wife and two daughters, Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Willard survive him.

JOHN COOLIDGE was born in Gardner, Mass., but removed to Leominster and there spent the rest of his days. He was employed in the comb and horn business and other works at different times. He died Feb. 3, 1885, the circumstances of his death being such as to call forth unusual expressions of sympathy. In doing a kind act for a friend and neighbor, watching by his bedside during his last illness, he received from his heated brow the poison which caused his death. It was a kind heart that prompted him to this act of self sacrifice, which will not soon be forgotten in the community.



## CHAPTER XI.

### COMMERCIAL.



NO BETTER index of the business activities of the town can be found than the two banking institutions, one of which furnishes all the needed monetary accommodation to manufacturers, merchants and business men generally, and the other accommodating the large number of persons who make it a point to save some portion of their earnings to be laid by for a rainy day.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF LEOMINSTER was organized in 1864, with John H. Lockey for its first President, and Joel C. Allen, Cashier. Its charter having expired in 1884, by limitation. The present bank is its successor.

THE LEOMINSTER NATIONAL BANK, was organized with a capital of \$150,000. Its officers are : Hamilton Mayo, President ; A. L. Burditt, Cashier ; Fred J. Lothrop, Teller ; W. A. Putnam, Book-keeper ; Directors, Hamilton Mayo, Charles L. Joslin, John M. Lockey, F. A. Whitney, George L. Rice, Nahum Harwood, A. L. Burditt and A. W. Williams.

HAMILTON MAYO has held the position of President since the Bank was organized in 1884. He was born in Westmin-

ster, Mass., Feb. 26th, 1851 ; son of William and Mary Mayo, was graduated from Meriden Academy in 1863, Dartmouth College in 1873, and Albany Law School in 1874, at which time he was admitted to the bar, and in February of the following year, 1875, opened an office in Leominster. Since that time he has devoted himself to the practice of his profession. He was appointed Trial Justice in 1883, and still holds that office ; he is one of the Trustees and one of the Investment Committee of the Leominster Savings Banks. He was for several years a member of the School Board, and during the latter part of the time was chairman. Nov. 20th, 1878 was married to Florence G. Curtis of Portland, Maine.

A. L. BURDITT was first identified with the bank in 1865, at which time he went in as an assistant to Joel C. Allen, Cashier. He was appointed Cashier of the First National Bank in 1870 and Treasurer of the Savings Bank in 1871, and still holds both positions.

FRED J. LOTHROP has held the position of Teller since Dec. 1, 1885, and W. A. PUTNAM that of Book-keeper, since May 4, 1882.

THE LEOMINSTER SAVINGS BANK was incorporated in 1865. The three original charter members were John H. Lockey, Leonard Burrage and James H. Carter. Mr. Lockey, who was then in the State Legislature, being instrumental in securing the act of incorporation. The officers of the Bank are : Dwight B. Look, President ; Charles L. Joslin, Vice President ; A. L. Burdett, Clerk and Treasurer ; Trustees, C. C. Boyden, Hamilton Mayo, George Woods, F. A. Whitney, Geo. F. Colburn, Geo. Hall, J. G. Tenney, Clesson Kenney and D. C. Nickerson.

DWIGHT B. LOOK, President, is a native of Conway, Mass., where he was born April 19th, 1820. His education was such as the common schools of his native town and the neighboring village of Shelburn Falls afforded. In 1836 he left Conway





GEO. L. RICE.



A. A. WILLIAMS



GEORGE WOODS.



C. BOYDEN





GEORGE HALL



GEORGE W. TEMPLE



E. O. NEWTON



GEORGE W. TEMPLE



and went to Hatfield and engaged in making corn brooms and brushes. In 1840 he returned to Conway and with his brothers engaged in the manufacture of horn combs of various kinds. In 1847 Mr. Look came to Leominster, and continued to work at the same business until 1854, when he associated himself with his two brothers, and William Tilton, under the firm name of Look, Tilton & Co., in the manufacture of the same goods. In 1856 he went into the Dry Goods and Grocery business with J. Q. A. Pierce under the firm name of J. Q. A. Pierce & Co. After two years he returned to the manufacture of horn goods associated with Wm. Tilton and J. W. Bates under the firm name of Tilton, Look & Co. In 1869 the firm was dissolved, and the business and factory were sold. In 1872 he resumed the business with A. G. Derby and Geo. R. Damon, under the firm name of Derby, Look & Co. In 1876 Clarence Kenney bought out Mr. Derby's interest in the business and it was continued under the firm name of Look, Damon & Co. to Jan. 1st, 1882.

Mr. Look takes a great interest in his adopted town. He is always ready and willing to do all that he can to promote her prosperity. In 1880-1, he was elected to represent the seventeenth Worcester District in the General Court of Massachusetts. He has held various town offices; three years on the Board of Selectmen, three years on the Board of Assessors, two years on the Board of Auditors, Collector of Taxes two years, now serving his second year as Chairman of the Board of the Overseers of the Poor, is a trustee to hold and disburse the income of funds left for the relief of the worthy poor of the town, was one of the original incorporators, and is on the Board of Trustees and the President of the Leominster Savings Bank. He is a temperance Republican in politics, and Evangelical in his religious belief.

Mr. Look has been twice married. In 1844, he married

Fanny A., daughter of Dr. Washington Hamilton. In 1850 he married Emily, daughter of Col. Jabez Newhall, both of Conway. They have two children, Frank N. and Fanny H. The former was a graduate of Amherst College, in the class of '77, and is now treasurer and manager of the Florence Manufacturing company, Florence, Mass. The latter completed her studies at Wellesley and Boston and is engaged in Kindergarten work at Florence, Mass.

CHARLES L. JOSTIN, Vice President. Sketch with Joslin family.

### POST OFFICE.

The Post Office at Leominster Centre has been located in the Bank Block on Main street since 1874.

Thomas A. Hills is Postmaster, and his brother, C. W. Hills, Assistant Postmaster. We are unable to give the date of the establishment of the office, or the names of the first postmasters. For several years John Gardner held the position, and the Post Office was located in the first house west of the Dr. Pierce estate on West Street. Daniel Gates succeeded him for a short time, then John Kendall, locating the office in a building where Wood's Block now stands. It was here in 1833 that Charles H. Colburn entered upon his long term of service. The office was, after a time, removed to the store of Henry Allen in the old Allen block. Here, for two years, Mr. Colburn was associated with Joel C. Allen in the dry goods business, the firm being Colburn & Allen. In 1837 Mr. Colburn removed the office to his house on Main St., where he also started in the dry goods business. After a few years he put in a stock of patent medicines in the place of dry goods and continued in that line of business up to Dec. 1887, when he disposed of his stock and discontinued the business. He resigned his position as postmaster in 1874, after a service of forty years and nine months.



From the date of his birth, Jan. 23, 1808, Mr. Colburn has been a resident of this town, and intimately connected with its history. He is the last of a family of five sons and one daughter, children of Elisha and Deborah Colburn, who were all reared from childhood in the little old house on the corner of Central and Lancaster streets.

THOMAS A. HILLS, the present postmaster, is a son of the late Capt. Thomas and Nancy W. Hills, and was born in Leominster, Sept. 15, 1840. He received his education in the public schools of this town.

In the winter of 1857 he entered the employ of Abner Parker & Co., Cordaville, Mass., proprietors of a country store. Subsequently he was employed in the store of John G. Thurston & Co., South Lancaster, Mass., and was residing there at the time of his enlistment into the service of the U. S., in the autumn of 1862. He joined Co. C, 53d Mass. Vols. from this town, commanded by Capt. Joel A. Stratton. The regiment formed a part of "Banks' Expedition," and was assigned to the 19th Army Corps, Dept. of the Gulf.

Soon after the muster out of his Regt., in the fall of 1863, he entered the employ of Allen & Kimball in this town, remaining with them until July, 1864, when he again enlisted, this time for a period of one hundred days, joining Co. E, of Marlborough, 5th Mass. Vols., in which he served as Sergt. until the muster out of the Regt. in November of the same year. For several years after he was connected with the State Militia, serving as Lieut. in Co. K, 10th Regt. In January, 1865, he entered into partnership with Christopher Chase, under the firm name of Chase & Hills, conducting the dry goods and grocery business at the old "Gates" store on Central street. Subsequently he was in company with A. O. Wilder and later on, conducted the grocery business alone at the same place, remaining there till the summer of 1874.

July 1, 1874 he assumed the position of postmaster, succeeding Charles H. Colburn, the retiring postmaster. He was first appointed by President U. S. Grant, and subsequently by Presidents Hayes, Arthur, and Cleveland.

He has been a member of Chas. H. Stevens Post 53 G. A. R. of this town since 1868, during which time he has filled various offices, and is now Commander of the Post.

THE NORTH LEOMINSTER POST OFFICE was established in 1851, at which time W. F. Howe, the present postmaster, was appointed.

Mr. Howe was engaged at that time in the tailoring business, in Baldwin's Block—now Fiske Block. He removed to the house now standing north of the depot, where, in 1858, he started in the store business. Here the office was located until 1861, at which time he removed his store and the Post Office to their present location. On the site of the present store (Howe's Block) stood an old store building for a long time kept by John Stratton, and later by L. W. Conant. Previous to 1861 the present building was owned and used by the town as a school house, but the Kendall Hall building having been provided, it was no longer needed for school purposes, and was purchased by Mr. Howe, who moved it to its present location, fitting up the lower story for business purposes, the old store being moved and utilized as a back store.

#### REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE.

These important interests are represented by J. M. Lockey & Co., Real Estate Agents, the firm consisting of J. M. Lockey and Hamilton Mayo. The agency of Lockey & Allison, Insurance, with J. M. Lockey of Leominster, and Henry Allison, of Fitchburg as partners, and the Insurance agency of Chauncy W. Carter, Esq. Sketches of H. Mayo and Chauncy W. Carter are already given.



W. F. HOWE.









JOHN M. LOCKEY

MR. JOHN M. LOCKEY is a native of Roxbury, Mass. He was educated in the schools of Leominster, together with two years at the Massachusetts Agricultural College. Entering the Insurance business in October, 1872, he continued alone in that business until 1878, when he entered into partnership with Mr. Charles B. Dennis, of Fitchburg, under the firm name of Lockey & Dennis. A year later Mr. Henry Allison of Fitchburg purchased the interest of Mr. Dennis, and the business has since continued as Lockey & Allison. Mr. Lockey is also a member of the firm of J. M. Lockey & Co., Real Estate and Mortgages, office at Leominster. In October, 1887, he was chosen Treasurer of the J. H. Lockey Piano Case Co. He has been director in the Leominster National Bank since its organization in 1884.

#### DOCTORS.

DR. CHARLES A. WHEELER was born in Fitchburg Dec. 6, 1836, graduated from the Fitchburg High School in the class of '54; graduated from Worcester Eclectic Medical College in '57. He began the practice of medicine in West Boylston, Nov. '58. He enlisted in the 15th Mass. Regt., Nov. '61; was commissioned assistant surgeon in the 12th Mass. Regt. in Dec. '62; was mustered out with the regiment July 8th, '64; and came to Leominster, in August '64, where he still continues in practice.

DR. HENRY R. BROWN was born in Loudon, N. H., March 11th, 1841; attended the public schools until the age of fourteen, then entered Loudon Academy, where he studied to become a Civil Engineer. Disappointed in obtaining a satisfactory situation in that profession, he gave it up, and commenced the study of medicine in 1862, with Dr. W. S. Collins. In Sept. of that year, he enlisted in Co. G, 15th N. H. V. He served eleven months as orderly Sergeant, and on being dis-

charged he resumed the study of medicine and graduated in March, 1867, at the N. Y. Homœopathic Medical College. The same month he commenced practicing in Waterbury, Conn., in partnership with Dr. E. C. Knight. He removed to Leominster in July, 1869, where, with the exception of two and a half years that he was away on account of ill health, he has been located ever since.

DR. H. P. HALL, was born in Kennebunk, Maine, August 2d, 1853, and after studying in the college of Physicians and Surgeons in New York, graduated from Maine Medical College in 1873, after which he studied in the hospitals of London and Paris, and then returned to Portland, Maine, where he practiced for awhile in the office of his preceptor, and finally settled in this town in 1876, where he has continued to practice until the present time.

DR. J. M. RANDALL, (deceased). Sketch already given.

DR. C. E. BIGELOW, was born in Danielsonville, Conn., Oct. 11th, 1855. He was educated in the public schools of Danielsonville, Friends Boarding School and Mowrey & Goff's Private School in Providence, R. I., and graduated from Brown University, Providence R. I., in 1878, and from Jefferson, Medical College in 1882. He located in Leominster in 1882. He is a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

DR. EDWARD J. CUTTER, was graduated at Harvard College in 1877, and, four years later, at Harvard Medical School. He served, also, as House Pupil and House Surgeon in the Boston City Hospital, from July, 1880, until Jan. 1882, when he was appointed Assistant Resident Physician at the State Almshouse at Tewksbury. He resigned this position in Nov. 1882, to take the place of Assistant Superintendent and Resident Physician at the Boston City Hospital. This place he resigned in Nov. 1884, and came to Leominster, where he has since resided. He is now one of the Consulting Staff of the Baldwinville Cottage Hospital.





DR. E. ROSCOE MILLER was born Sept. 26, 1859, graduated from Nichols Academy, Dudley, Mass., class of '83, and from Boston University, School of Medicine in 1887. He settled in Leominster, June 8th, 1887.

DR. FRANK HENRY MOWE was born in Hill, N. H., April 7, 1864. He was educated at New Hampton Institute and Dartmouth Medical College, also at New York Post Graduate Medical College and Hospital. He settled in Leominster, May '88.

### LAWYERS.

CHAUNCEY W. CARTER, ESQ. Sketch with Carter family.

HAMILTON MAYO, ESQ. Sketch as President of the Leominster National Bank.

WILLIAM E. WHITE, son of L. C. and Frances W. White, was born at Worcester, Mass., May 26, 1863. He attended the public schools of Worcester, including the Worcester High School. He worked about a year as clerk in the office of E. W. Vaill, manufacturer of patent folding chairs, after which he studied for about one year at home, and took a course in book-keeping at Hinman's Business College. In the fall of 1882 he determined to take up the study of the law. With this end in view a year was spent in special study under the direction of the late Hon. Geo. F. Verry, and Hon. E. H. Bennett of the Boston University Law School. In the fall of 1883 Mr. White continued his studies at the Boston University Law School and also in the School of Liberal Arts connected with the University. He was admitted to the Worcester County bar April 1, 1886, at the age of twenty-three years, entering immediately into practice in the city of Worcester, where he remained until Nov. 1, 1887, when he removed to Leominster.

### DENTISTS.

DR. F. E. NIMS has been in the practice of his profession



in Leominster for the past fifteen years. He is a native of Rowe, Mass., where he was born, May 31, 1848, received his education at the Shelburne Falls Academy and the Pennsylvania Dental College of Philadelphia. He began practice in Shelburne Falls in 1859. In June, 1873, having disposed of his business, he came to Leominster and opened an office in Wood's block, at the end of about eleven months removing to his present office in Foster's block, which was then just completed.

DR. G. H. WOODBURY is a native of Bolton, Mass., born in 1864, and educated at Waterville Academy, Maine., Leominster High School, and Boston Dental College. He succeeded the late Dr. L. N. Leslie, in Wood's block.

DR. E. A. EATON was born in Fitchburg, Mass., in 1838. He attended the public and High schools of that town, and in the year 1859 entered the office of Dr. T. Palmer of Fitchburg as a student in dentistry, remaining for five years. He began to practice in Lawrence, Mass., in 1865, but was ordered by his physician to California in 1867, on account of failing health. He practiced there for thirteen years, returning to Fitchburg in 1880. He located in Leominster in September 1886.

### DRUGGISTS.

C. F. NIXON was born in Sterling, Aug. 16, 1857. He removed to Templeton and afterward, in 1868, to Leominster, where he attended school, and later entered the employ of C. E. Dresser, druggist, in Fosters' block. He graduated at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy in May, 1884, having started in business in Allen's block in 1879. He is now President of the Worcester North Druggists' Association. At the time Mr. Nixon commenced business he was the youngest druggist in town, and had also been the shortest time in business. Owing to changes in the proprietorship of the other drug stores he is now senior in his line and longest in business.





M. A. GREEN...COD.



T. A. HILLS



EDWARD PRE. EAL



A. O. WILDER

E. E. BURDETT. This business was established when Fosters' block was built, in 1874, by A. A. Burditt of Clinton, who afterwards disposed of the business to C. E. Dresser. In 1881, it was purchased by the present proprietor, who had, for four years previous to that time, been in the employ of Mr. Dresser.

Mr. Burdett is a son of A. L. Burdett, and a native of Leominster.

FRED P. PORTER was born in Lunenburg, Mass. He came to Leominster in 1877, and in 1887 purchased the drug business of Dr. A. H. French, in Wood's block, after having been in the employ of E. E. Burdett for six years.

Previous to Dr. French, John Dickey, S. A. Whittier, Chas. S. Perry, Wheelock & Whittier, and others carried on this business.

## WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS.

EDWARD PREVEAR was born in Northampton, Mass., Sept. 10, 1817, and educated at Amherst in the public schools and Academy. He went as an apprentice to the watch, jewelry, and optical business in Amherst in 1834, and succeeded his employers Jan. 1, 1840, removing his business to Lynn in 1849, thence to Leominster in 1858.

The necessity of some simple method for ascertaining exact time, which is found only by the movements of the sun and stars, led him to construct a transit instrument for that purpose, for which he received letters patent in 1868. It was the study of astronomy for the purpose of computing time, under the guidance of professors at Amherst and Harvard Colleges, that led to his appointment by Gov. Claflin, in 1870, as Commissioner for establishing meridian lines in each county of the state of Massachusetts. With the efficient help of his son, Geo. F. Prevear, he still continues the watch, jewelry, and optical business at the corner of Main and Mechanic streets.

F. W. OSGOOD removed to Leominster from his native place, Salisbury, Mass., in March 1886, locating in the C. H. Colburn building on Main street.

### PRINTING.

The first newspaper printed in town was the "Rural Repository," which was started Oct. 22, 1795, and published weekly by Charles Prentiss, in a building near where Josiah Pierce now lives. The date of its death is not known, certainly, but in June, 1798, Charles and John Prentiss started the "Political Focus," which was devoted to the interests of the Federalists. This paper was printed at the same place as the "Rural Repository", and must have been as short lived, for in 1800, we have record of the advent of the "Telescope", published at the same office as the others, by Dr. Daniel Adams, (author of Adams' Arithmetic,) and Salmon Wilder. This ceased for want of patronage, Oct. 14, 1802. The "Political Recorder" started in the summer of 1809, and was published by Salmon Wilder about half a mile west of the meeting house. The last number was issued July 19th, 1810.

For several years after the failure of his newspaper business, Charles Prestiss continued the publication of books, one volume of his own, "Essays," in prose and poetry, "The Philosophy of Love," by the late Rev. Charles Stearns, of Lincoln Mass., also a 12 mo. volume of "Dramatic Dialogues," by the same author. He also published several miscellaneous volumes for himself and others, and kept a bookstore and bindery.

Doctor Adams, who was settled here, published several editions of his "Scholars Arithmetic" and his "Understanding Reader," two valuable school books, which were afterwards enlarged and much improved. The Arithmetic became very celebrated, and in 1806-7 Mr. Prentiss purchased the copyright and large editions of it were published. In 1828 the author

revised it in order to supply the demands of the times, and from that time until 1848, large stereotype editions were published of the new 12 mo. work, Adams' New Arithmetic. Another revision was then made and the "Revised Edition" was, for several years published by J. W. Prentiss & Co.

For several years, prior to 1872, there was no newspaper in town. June 3d of that year Mr. F. N. Boutwell commenced the publication of the "Leominster Enterprise" having three years previous to that, established a printing office in town. The paper was conducted by Mr. Boutwell, (as stated further on), until 1884. He worked during the year 1884 on the paper in connection with A. G. Morse, to whom the plant was leased that year. Jan. 1, 1885, the office was purchased by J. D. Miller, and since that time the paper has been conducted by Mr. Miller as Editor and Proprietor.

CHARLES H. RICE, local reporter and business agent of the "Enterprise," has been connected with the paper in that capacity for the past four years. He is a native of Marlboro', Mass. He graduated at Monson Academy, having taken a three-years course, and for a few years taught in the public schools. He was afterwards, for nine years, in a dry goods and grocery store. He came to Leominster in 1881, and engaged in newspaper work, having been an agent for the Associated Press for several years. For fifteen years he has held an auctioneer's license, and dealt in real estate and personal property. For five years he has been one of the police officers of the town.

For several years previous to 1881, a Job Office was run by Charles Smith, later on, by Charles Tenney, who sold out to Moses Leger. Mr. Leger continued from 1881 until the fall of 1883, when he discontinued business and went to Lynn, where he is now foreman of a large Job Printing Office.

There is but one other printing office in town at the present time, that of Boutwell & Co.

F. N. BOUTWELL is a native of Craftsbury, Orleans County, Vermont, where he was born July 30, 1835. His early education was acquired at the district school. At the age of sixteen he commenced the apprenticeship of a printer in Amherst, N. H., and served three years. He then worked as journeyman in Montpelier, Vt., Boston, and Fitchburg, Mass., and Nashua, and Milford, N. H., until 1858, when he purchased the "Milford Republican," and was the editor and publisher of that paper until 1862, when its publication was suspended on account of the war. After this he worked as a journeyman most of the time until 1867, when he established a job printing office in Milford, N. H., which was purchased the following year by Mr. J. M. Blanchard. In May, 1869, he established a printing office in Leominster, occupying a room in a building on the site which is now occupied by the Leominster Hotel. In 1871, the office was moved to a room in Wood's Block. June 3, 1872, he commenced the publication of the "Leominster Enterprise". In 1874 the office was moved to Fosters' Block, and in 1879 to Morse's Block on Water street, where he continued as editor and proprietor until Jan. 1884, when the business was leased, for one year, to A. G. Morse, and on Jan. 1, 1885, it was sold to J. D. Miller. In 1886 he established a second book and job printing office on Water street, where the business is still carried on.

In 1857 he married Miss Abby L. Melendy, of Amherst, N. H., who died in 1855. They had one child, a daughter, who is now connected with him in business.

In 1854 he became a member of the M. E. Church, in which he has held important official relations for many years. After the close of the war he received a local preacher's license, and went to Charlestown, S. C., and spent several months in teaching the Freedmen. In 1869 he returned to Fitchburg, where he married Miss S. Elizabeth Willard, of Ashburnham, and shortly afterward removed to this town.



GEORGE H. WHEELOCK.



F. N. BOUTWELL



A. E. LYON



M. ROBBINS.





THE LEOMINSTER BOOK BINDERY, was established about 1876, by Z. S. Phelps, proprietor. He is a native of Fitchburg, and for thirteen years he was employed in the bindery connected with the old and well known Book-store of Stephen Shepley. He started in business for himself on the corner of Laurel and Main street, and soon after removed to Leominster.

THE NEWS STAND, Allen C. Hosmer, proprietor. This business was first established by A. J. Parker, in an old building where Wood's block now stands. The business was afterwards carried on by a Mr. Simonds, and Edward Sawyer. In 1875, Eugene Damon established the P. O. News Room which was afterwards carried on by Edward Sawyer, Charles E. Smith, E. M. Harrington and Henry G. Edgerly who sold out to Mr. Hosmer and the stand was removed to its present location when the Post Office was enlarged.

### PHOTOGRAPHERS.

L. A. RICHARDSON is the oldest established photographer in town. His father and two brothers also followed the same business. Mr. Richardson is a native of Leominster, born Oct. 17, 1840. At the age of 17 choosing Photography as a business, he started out and for nine years travelled, as was the custom in those days, from place to place, locating afterwards in a permanent studio in Boston. Three years later he removed to Ashland, Mass., and after the expiration of another three years came to Leominster, where, after the first few months, he located in the rooms he now occupies. This is his thirtieth year in the business, fifteen of which have been spent in this town.

EDMOND G. DAVIS, although not now classing himself with the Photographers, has been the greater part of his life in the business. Although born in Lowell in 1847, he has been a resident of this town for the past 35 years, and is a lineal descend-

ent of Gershom and Tamah Houghton, the first settlers of the town. He first established himself in the photograph business in a travelling car on the old training field ; changing in 1874, to rooms in Allen's Block, corner of Pleasant and Pearl streets, where he was located for several years. Later he engaged with his father in the upholstering and furniture repairing business in Morse's Block, where he is at present located, continuing however in landscape photography as a pastime.

Mr. Davis has always taken an active personal interest in public matters, particularly in improving and beautifying the town, and has done efficient service as Curator of the Museum.

Among those who were photographers in former years may be mentioned William T. Allen, Oren Buck, Charles Pierce, and I. A. Collins.

THE WORCESTER STUDIO located here Sept. 1, 1888. The proprietors are John Kivlan, a native of Princeton, Mass., and H. F. Donovan, who is a native of Brighton, England. He has worked in Toronto, Canada, Buffalo, N. Y., Boston and Worcester, previous to coming to Leominster.

### SURVEYOR.

JONAS W. GATES is a native of Worcester, Mass., received his education in the Leominster Public Schools, and engaged in Civil Engineering in 1865, in which business he has continued to the present time.

### UNDERTAKER.

CHARLES H. RICHARDSON has been for several years a furnishing undertaker in this town. He was born in Leominster, on the old homestead, Sept. 3, 1840. During the early years of his life, he was most of the time with his father, Silas Richardson, who was for so many years the village sexton, being associated with him during the last of his life, and succeeding to the position previous to his father's death. Mr. Rich-



L. A. RICHARDSON.



DR. F. E. NIMS.



C. H. RICHARDSON



W. T. ROBBINS.



ardson has been located at his present residence and place of business for the past seventeen years.

### DRY GOODS, ETC.

The Dry Goods business of D. C. Nickerson was established in 1874, by Loring Sears, who sold out to Mr. Nickerson in May, 1874. In 1885, the store was enlarged and remodelled. Mr. Nickerson is a native of Harwich where he was born Jan. 21, 1848. He received his education in Boston, and learned the Dry Goods business of N. H. Skinner & Co., in Taunton, Mass. He is a prominent business man and a Trustee in the Leominster Savings Bank.

O. A. TAFT was born in Uxbridge, Mass., Jan. 17, 1850, but moved to Douglas when quite young. He attended Schofield's Commercial College, in Providence. He was a clerk in country stores and in 1869, went into the employ of Bryant & Wiley, afterwards Solon Bryant & Co., wholesale dealers in Notions and Fancy Goods, in Worcester, Mass., having an interest in the firm. After some time he went into partnership with E. A. Merrill in the wholesale and retail toy business. In 1880, owing to poor health, he sold out his interest, came to Leominster, and purchased the Dry Goods business of D. I. Harthan, in Wood's Block, removing, in 1884, to his present location in Hotel Block.

L. F. BURRAGE is a native of Leominster, where he was born Nov. 2, 1853. He was the successor of T. B. Grimes, who established the business several years before in Union block. Before engaging in the Dry Goods trade he was interested in the Horn Business in the firm of Wheelock & Burrage.

MRS. ELLA M. WILDER has been engaged in the Ladies Furnishing goods business, in Woods' Block since the Summer of 1886. (Sketch in Educational Chapter.)

R. B. ANDREWS was born in Conway, N. H., April 16,

1855. He worked in a country variety store and was afterwards engaged in the Paper Hanging and Grocery business in Fitchburg, removing to Leominster in 1877, buying out G. E. Litchfield & Co., in the Hotel Block, removing to his present location in 1883.

D. H. WHELOCK'S Variety Store. Mr. Wheelock has been engaged in trade most of the time for fifteen years or more, and was a manufacturer of horn goods prior to that time.

W. C. KNOWLTON bought out the Variety Store of F. B. Frye, in the Hotel Block in the spring of the present year, and in October removed to his present location in Bassett's new block.

MISS. M. E. CHAMBERLAIN, in North Leominster, has also been engaged in the fancy goods business in Chute's Block for the past two or three years.

#### MILLINERY GOODS.

MRS. M. E. BOWEN has been engaged in the millinery business on the corner of Main and Merriam street for the past twenty years. The business was carried on for thirty years previous to that in the same building by Mrs. S. S. Woodbury, an aunt of Mrs. Bowen.

MRS. L. W. JOY started in business twenty-five years ago in the rooms now occupied by Mrs. M. N. Straw, in Union Block, continuing for nine years, when she removed to Fitchburg. In March 1885, she returned to Leominster, and opened millinery rooms in Hotel Block.

MRS. L. J. MUNSIE started in the rooms she now occupies, in Wood's Block, in 1875. For five years she was out of business, but eight years ago opened rooms in Union Block, moving to Wood's Block in 1886.

MRS. M. N. STRAW bought out the Millinery business of George W. Gates, September 1886, in No. 3 Monument Square.



JOHN K. LANE



HARRY C. LANE



MARTIN F. LANE



M. LANE





She has since carried on the business. She was in the same business nine years at Franklin, N. H.

### CLOTHING.

SHAPLEY BROTHERS have been longest established in the clothing trade. The firm, consisting of G. H. and C. H. Shapley, located in Monoosnock block, October 1, 1872, removing to Cook's Block, July 1st, 1874. They removed to their present location at 11 Monument Square, Dec. 1, 1880.

J. B. SPERL, Merchant Tailor, located here Aug. 1, 1874. He is a native of Munich, Bavaria, and came to this country in Sept. 1866, residing in Baltimore and afterwards in Philadelphia, New York and Boston, removing to Worcester in the spring of 1870, where he remained until he came to Leominster.

I. F. GORHAM is a native of Welfleet, Mass. He came to Leominster in 1876, and engaged in the clothing business in Allen's Block, removing, two years later to his present location in Wood's Block.

W. H. UPHAM worked in Manchester, N. H., in the clothing trade, for four years previous to coming to Leominster in April, 1866. He is a native of Amherst, N. H.

### RETAIL BOOT AND SHOE BUSINESS.

This business is carried on by F. W. Polley, M. A. Greenwood, George M. Powers, and by several others in connection with other business.

A. M. POLLEY & SON. This business was established in 1848, by A. M. Polley, who afterwards associated with him F. W. Polley, his son, who had grown up with him in the business, and who has since succeeded to the entire proprietorship, but retaining the firm name. Sketches of A. M. Polley in the Biographical Chapter, and F. W. Polley in the Military Chapter.

M. A. GREENWOOD started in business at his present location, 5 Union Block, Nov. 1, 1871. Mr. Greenwood is a native of Hubbardston, Mass., where he was born Dec. 22, 1839. He remained on a farm until he was 22 years of age, when he went to Worcester and was successively employed by W. D. Holbrook, flour and grain dealer, Dwinnell & Taft, retail grocers, and in the wholesale house of L. M. Leonard.

He enlisted in Co. G, 42d Mass. Regt., and at the expiration of his term of service, went to Hubbardston and was in a grain store until the spring of 1871, when he came to Leominster, and worked for A. O. Wilder, until he began business for himself. Mr. Greenwood was elected Representative from the 14th Worcester district in 1887, serving on the committee on claims, and in 1888 on the committee on towns.

GEO. M. POWERS is a native of Leominster, born Sept. 9, 1846, educated in the schools of Leominster and at the Bridgewater State Normal School. He spent six years in teaching, two years in Shirley Village, one year in Saybrook, Conn., one year in Groton and two years in West Brookfield. He returned to Leominster and purchased of Solon Perry, the corner store where he is at present located. Mr. Perry was the successor of Robert Glover who bought out Foster Brothers, the original proprietors.

#### HARDWARE—STOVES—PLUMBING.

The hardware business is at present carried on by Amos B. Merrill in Wood's Block, and Sawtelle & Estabrook, in Cook's Block.

AMOS B. MERRILL was born in Derry, Mass., Jan. 5, 1847, on the old family estate which has been kept in the Merrill name since 1759, and which is now in his possession. Mr. Merrill lived in Atkinson, Mass., and Haverhill until 1879, when he came to Leominster and started in his present business.



AMOS B. MERRILL.



CHARLES F. NIXON.



DR. DANIEL FARRAR.



CHARLES WILD.



H. F. SAWTELLE.



J. W. ESTABROOK.



E. F. PIERCE.



H. E. BURRAGE.

SAWTELLE & ESTABROOK started in 1888. Mr. Sawtelle had previously been in the employ of Mr. Merrill, residing in Leominster the past five years. He is a native of Bolton, Mass. and received his commercial education in Poughkeepsie, N. Y. Mr. Estabrook was born in Princeton, lived in Sterling and Marlboro', and was employed at the F. A. Whitney Carriage Co.'s works about ten years, and was with Mr. Merrill about a year previous to starting in his present business.

RAILEY & BURRAGE, Stove Dealers, etc. This business was established as far back as 1870, by Mr. Knapp. He is a native of Mason, N. H., where he was born June 25, 1819. He came to Leominster in 1840, and served his apprenticeship with Benjamin Merriman, in the tin and stove business, and continued with Mr. B. S. Nichols, Mr. Merriman's successor, afterwards Nichols & Elliott, and some years with Mr. Elliott alone, and for some time with George S. Jones and a Mr. Atherton. In 1870 Mr. Knapp bought out Wm. Fish and started in the rear of A. O. Wilder's store, removing afterwards to the corner of Water and Mechanic street, and then to Monument Square. Mr. Knapp worked for every man but one who carried on the business from 1840 to 1870. Jan. 1st, 1885 Mr. Knapp retired from active business, disposing of his business to J. J. Railey and H. E. Burrage, who formed the present co-partnership. Mr. Railey is a native of Boston, a carpenter by trade. He served during the war as a private in Berdan's 2d Regt. U. S. Sharpshooters. In 1873 he came to Leominster, and worked at his trade until 1878, when he entered into partnership with A. Draffin, in the firm of Railey & Draffin, Slate Roofers, in which he continued until 1885, when he sold his interest and bought in with Mr. Burrage. Mr. Burrage is a native of Worcester, removed to Leominster in 1860, and worked on a farm and at cabinet making until 1869, when he served an apprenticeship as a tin smith with W. T. Fish, in which business he

has continued to the present time. He is a skilled workman.

T. E. KENDALL, Stoves, Tinware and Plumbing. Mr. Kendall started the business in his present location in 1879. He was born in Leominster, Oct. 31, 1829. He learned his trade in Waltham. He was engaged in rail-roading for three years previous to the war. He served in the 59th Indiana Regt., and after the close of the war worked in Boston and Providence, until he returned to Leominster.

### STEAM AND GAS FITTER.

The business of Steam and Gas Fitting and Plumbing was established here Nov. 1, 1878, by Mr. John B. Farnsworth, who occupied the upper story of the building now occupied by Ral-ley & Burrage. Mr. Farnsworth was born Aug. 6, 1833 in Ware, Mass, and at the age of two years his parents moved to Athol. At the age of 18 he left the farm and entered the employ of Seth Twitchell, building mover, in Fitchburg. He worked at his present business for Levi Stevens, J. W. Allen & Co., H. R. Barker, and A. W. Hubbard. After leaving J. W. Allen & Co.'s, he was, for several months, employed by the Springfield Gas Machine Co., setting up their machines in Connecticut and Long Island. Later on he worked for H. J. Kimball and Parks & Carpenter, both in Fitchburg and Leominster, until he commenced business for himself. Having become established here he began to do work for Clinton parties, and in 1883 started a branch there, which is conducted there by Wm. H. Walker, of Leominster. Mr. Farnsworth employs, on an average, about ten men in both places. He was the first man in this section to introduce hot water heating eight years ago, and is doing a good business in that line. In the management of his Leominster business he has the assistance of his son, Frank S. Farnsworth. His place of business is located opposite the Old Colony passenger Depot.

## GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

The A. L. Williams & Co., corner store, was built by J. Q. A. Pierce, who sold it to Goss & Harthan, grocers. It has been occupied for the grocery business by George Lawrence & Co., Kendall & Lawrence Brothers, Jones & Lehy, Lehy & Goss, G. B. & M. F. Lehy, Foster Bros. & Kenney, Oscar C. Marsh, and the present firm, A. L. Williams & Co. Mr. Williams was previously engaged in business here in the firm of Parmenter & Williams, but sold out and returned to Fitchburg. In Nov. 1886 he bought out Oscar C. Marsh, and continues the business at the corner store under the firm name of A. L. Williams & Co.

W. K. RICHARDSON. This business was started, when Allen's Block was built, by Edmund T. Packard, who afterward associated with him, Mr. L. F. Burrage, the firm being Packard & Co. In June, 1879, W. C. Richardson & Co. bought the business. In Sept. 1882, the firm dissolved and the junior partner, W. K. Richardson, took the business. Mr. Richardson is a native of Leominster and has always been in the grocery business.

L. W. CONANT has been located in Baldwin Block, North Leominster, since 1861. It is not known when the original part of this block was built, but it was a little, old, country store within the memory of the oldest inhabitant, in the days when the sale of wet groceries formed a not inconsiderable item in the business. The original building was moved a little to the north, a story added, and the long part built in 1844. Those who kept the store previous to Mr. Conant, were Farnsworth & Wilder, who bought out J. Q. A. Pierce, Mr. Pierce bought out Joseph B. Brigham. David Ware, Bezaleel Lawrence and others carried on the business previous to that.

A. O. WILDER came to Leominster in 1866, and since that time, with the exception of about eighteen months, when D. P.



Waite carried on the business, has been engaged in the general merchandise business. Mr. Wilder is a native of Wendell, Franklin County, where he was born August 4, 1833. At the age of five he went to Sterling to live, where he was employed in 1856-7 by J. S. Butterick. He afterwards lived for a time in Lancaster. His first business connection in Leominster was under the firm of Wilder, Kidder & Co., Mr. Kidder being a tailor by trade. He was associated for four years with T. A. Hills in the firm of Wilder & Hills. Mr. Wilder has served the town in various offices; as Selectman in 1876-7-8, and as Assessor in 1883-4-5-6.

**BOSWORTH & BRUSH.** The retail grain and grocery business of this firm was established by Geo. E. Carter, who conceived the idea of a grain store. Previous to that time grain had been sold only at the mill. He started the business, together with G. W. Sheldon, the firm being Carter & Sheldon, selling out in about two years and a half to Thomas Harris and Frank Cozzens; Cozzens & Harris selling out to Joseph Cozzens in about two years, the latter in turn disposing of the business to Bosworth & Brush, the firm consisting of M. H. Bosworth and I. B. Brush. Mr. Bosworth is a native of West Springfield, and Mr. Brush of North Stockholm, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y. The firm rented the store in 1881, and in 1886 acquired it by purchase. They have, also, operated a grist mill in connection with their other business.

O. A. BALCH's grain mill has not been run for the past eight months. The mill was built in 1872, by W. F. Howe, and run by him until about three years ago.

E. C. WILLIAMS, Water street, started in the wholesale and retail butter business in May, 1884, and in his present grocery business at the commencement of the present year. He was one year with Mr. C. E. Hudson in the Apple Parer business. He is a native of Rochester, Vermont.



C. H. COLBURN.



CEPHAS DERBY



J. Q. CONANT



J. W. CONANT



## MARKETS.

**CONANT & MORSE.** The business of this firm was established by Stratton & Carter; Hallett & Wood carrying it on previous to its purchase by Mr. Conant in April, 1879. The present firm consists of J. Q. A. Conant and Clement E. Morse. Mr. Conant is a native of New Ipswich, N. H., where he was born April 13, 1835. He lived for a time in Lunenburg, locating here in 1857. Mr. Morse is a native of Boston. The partnership was formed March 1, 1888.

**D. A. WILDER** started in the business in Allen's Block, in 1884, buying out Wilder & Osborn, who were, for many years engaged in the business. Prior to that time, the business was conducted by Albert Clark, Frank Sheldon, Charles Fletcher, Joseph S. Darling, Curtis & Hastings, and Capt. Abel Bowers. Before Capt. Bowers' time it was not uncommon for farmers and others to go around disposing of meat usually selling by the quantity, either "fores or hinds", as the quarters were designated.

**WM. R. DIVOLL**, North Leominster market. The building occupied by Mr. Divoll, was built by W. F. Howe, who let it to Capt. Leonard Wood, for seven or eight years. The business was afterwards carried on by Smith & Wilder and Frank B. Holden, for a number of years, and then sold to Fred Divoll and after his death it was taken by his brother, the present proprietor.

**CHAS. T. WILDER** has been engaged in the provision business for several years. He is a native of Leominster, and a son of T. B. Wilder.

**HENRY D. LUSK** opened a meat market in Paton's Block, Oct. 1st of the present year. He is a native of Goshen, Orange Co., N. Y. He was a resident for thirty years, and lived in Gardner seventeen years, returning to Leominster as stated.

W. H. FAIRBANKS & Co., of Clinton, started a branch market here about a year since in charge of Mr. John Mudgett.

THOMAS ORDUNG has kept a fish market here for the past seven years. He is a native of Sparneck, Germany.

### MARKET GARDENING.

GEO. M. KENDALL began the business of raising vegetables for market, in 1878, commencing the first years by raising an out door crop and doing a small business. Since that time he has built extensive greenhouses and given his attention to special crops, raised under glass, until at the present time his business is largely that of raising cucumbers. Last season his crop reached upwards of 600 bushels. He has just completed a new greenhouse, 150 feet long which he hopes will increase the capacity for production one third. Mr. Kendall has now one of the best set of greenhouses in the State for the raising of that particular crop.

ALDEN DERBY has also given his attention to market gardening, doing an extensive business in that direction. His farm is on the line of the Fitchburg railroad.

### BAKERS.

In 1860 D. P. Lord established the first bakery in town, but was soon after succeeded by Luther Longley, who continued for nearly four years. The business was then conducted by H. B. Whitney for about six years. Several others have been engaged in the bakery business at different times.

H. P. BASSETT started in business on his own responsibility in 1867, in a building which stood in the rear of the present new bakery, recently erected on Central street. Mr. Bassett moved into his new building in October of the present year.

B. F. OWENS' bakery was established in May, 1886, on Water street, in the building formerly occupied by Hamilton Brown, which was remodelled and enlarged for that purpose.

## FURNITURE.

E. F. PIERCE is a native of Arlington, Mass. He first came to Leominster in 1859, entering the employ of H. Willard & Co., in the manufacture of chamber furniture. He was afterwards in the employ of H. M. Lane, Tenney & Lockey and Allen & Jewett, in the manufacture of Piano Forte Cases, removing to Greenville, N. H., he entered the employ of James L. Chamberlin, Manufacturer of Chamber Furniture, as clerk. In 1877 he associated with C. H. Goulding in the retail furniture business in Peabody, under the firm name of E. F. Pierce & Co. In 1880 he sold his interest to his partner, and started the same business in Marblehead, coming to Leominster in 1885, and purchasing his present business of George A. Bishop & Co.

## HAIR DRESSERS.

The first regular Barber shop was opened at the old Hotel some thirty years ago, by a colored barber, named Williams. After a time he sold out to J. Wallace Lines, who removed to Allen's block when it was first built, remaining there as long as he lived. After his death, it was carried on by the Executors, until it was sold out to Charles Wild, who in turn sold out in August of the present year to George E. Bearce. The other barbers, at the center are: A. Charron, H. O. Winn, M. L. Miller, Henry Bodo and W. H. Hitchcock at North Leominster.

It may not be out of place in this connection, to allude briefly to some facts in the life of J. Wallace Lines. Born during the last half century of American Slavery, his early life alone furnished abundant material for a romance, and his later years were not less eventful. Some of the facts as related to the writer, recently, by the late Joel Smith, the intimate friend of Mr. Lines, are here given. In the light of subsequent events the subject of this sketch was, without a shadow of reasonable doubt, a victim of circumstantial evidence. He came to Leom-

idster under a cloud. After being here some time he was arrested and taken to the town in New York State, where he had previously lived, was tried, convicted and sentenced on the charge of an attempt to set fire to the building in which his shop had been located. The people of Leominster believed in his innocence and showed their confidence in a substantial manner. Mr. Smith was delegated to look up his antecedents, to visit him, to be present at court and to render all the assistance in his power. The main facts brought out at the trial were that on a carpenter's bench in Mr. Line's back shop were found pieces of wood identical with those used in the construction of the fire box which was intended for the destruction of the building. The fact that Mr. Lines' neighbors in the block had free access to this room, and often used his carpenter's tools, had little weight with the jury, who rendered a verdict of guilty. He chose not to appeal his case, and served his sentence, although asserting his entire innocence. Afterwards he returned to Leominster, where he had the respect and confidence of the community during the rest of his life. He died suddenly of heart disease in 1876. His companion, a capable and accomplished lady, survived him but a short time, dying in the same manner. Among other bequests Mr. Lines left \$100 towards erecting a fence around the Soldiers Monument.

CHARLES WILD, the successor of Mr. Lines, was born in New York City, Jan. 14, 1855, and has followed the business of Hair Dresser since leaving school.

GEO. E. BEARCE, the successor of Mr. Wild, is a native of Maine, and has worked in Leominster some time, and was in the employ of Mr. Wild, previous to buying the business.

### COAL DEALERS.

The Coal Business of Leominster has been carried on in years past by Luther Longley, Oliver Patch, Curtis & Patch and Henry Stearns. In 1872, Mr. Stearns sold out to James Had-







W. F. LAWRENCE.



C. H. PROCTOR.



B. MARSHALL PITTS.



CLARENCE KENNEY.

ley, who continued in the business until the spring of 1886.

W. F. LAWRENCE & Co. In April 1886, W. F. Lawrence engaged in the coal business alone, and in August of the same year, Mr. C. H. Proctor, of Fitchburg, became associated with him in the firm of W. F. Lawrence & Co. Mr. Lawrence is a native of this town, where he was born June 25, 1852. He worked two years for Emery Tilton in the grocery business, and for E. B. Macy in the Dry Goods business in Fitchburg, two years. For six years he was engaged in the grocery business in the firm of Kendall & Lawrence Brothers, and afterwards for six years in the coal office of James Hadley, until he started in the business for himself.

Mr. Proctor was born in Fitchburg. He was for several years in the clothing business with James W. Leverett, and his successor, E. P. Kittredge in the store now occupied by E. M. Read, in what is now Proctor's Block, Main street. He was afterwards, for some time, with his brother, George B. Proctor, in the shoe business in the store adjoining the Safety Fund National Bank, on Main street. He has been connected with the coal business since 1871, in the office of Garfield & Proctor, until he left to engage in the present business.

MARTIN HADLEY, agent for the Leominster Coal Co., commenced business May 20th of 1886. He is a native of Leominster, and was in the office of his father, James Hadley, previous to taking his present situation.

CEPHAS DERBY engaged in the Wood and Lumber business in 1844, a business in which he has continued up to the present time. He is a son of Thomas and Mary Stone Derby, born in Leominster, March 14, 1819, a twin brother of Sewall Derby, and one of eleven children, who all lived to grow up. He left home to earn his living at the age of nine years. He lived in Cambridge the season of 1836, in Bolton from 1839 to 1844, and the rest of his life in Leominster. He married Ann E.

Nourse, daughter of Stephen and Sarah Houghton Nourse of Bolton, April 7, 1842. Mr. Derby has served on the Board of Assessors of Leominster six or seven years, and on the Board of Selectmen nine years.

JAMES M. ROBBINS has been a wood dealer in Leominster for the past eight years. He is a native of this town, and for twenty years was employed in the grain business, working for Oliver Patch, Stratton Brothers, Cozzens & Harris and Cozzens & Sons. In connection with his wood business Mr. Robbins has a boarding stable on Earl street, near Mechanic.

HOWARD GILSON, Ice Dealer, started in business first on his own account, afterwards buying out the stock and buildings formerly owned and used by J. C. Hoyt. E. R. Wixon was also engaged in the ice business for several years previous.

#### CONTRACTORS, ETC.

Leominster is well represented in this line of business, the amount of building in the past few years furnishing employment for a large number of workmen under the direction of competent contractors. The oldest contractors now in business are S. A. Meads and Paul Webber.

S. A. MEADS is a native of Limerick, Maine. He afterwards lived in Clinton and Lunenburg, coming to Leominster about the year 1851. He was a carpenter by trade and worked for E. A. Litchfield and others. In August, 1862 he enlisted in the 36th Reg. Mass. Vols., serving three years lacking a few weeks. He was one of five brothers in the army. Two were from Maine, one from Massachusetts, one from New York, and one from Minnesota. Since returning from the war, Mr. Meads has followed the business of Contractor and Builder, and in his time has probably built a larger number of houses than any other contractor now in business.

PAUL WEBBER was born in Alfred, York County, Maine.

He learned the Carpenter's trade and has followed the business for thirty-five years. He came to Leominster in 1871, where he has since been actively engaged in building. Many of our residences and manufactories were built under his direction, among which may be mentioned the residences of F. A. Whitney, A. L. Burditt and N. Harwood on Grove Avenue, the two factories of Wachusett Shirt Co., The Valpey & Anthony Shoe Factory, the recent extensive addition to the F. A. Whitney Carriage Co., and the Whitney & Rice Steam Mill Plant.

ALBERT E. LYON is a native of Chelmsford, Mass. He came to this town from Marlboro', in 1870, and worked at his trade for Stillman A. Meads and E. A. Litchfield until 1873, when he commenced business for himself, continuing until the present time in this and adjoining towns, within a radius of twenty miles.

HARRIS & BURBANK, the firm consisting of L. M. Harris and C. W. Burbank, have done a considerable amount of building in this and adjoining places, during the past three years. Mr. Harris is from North Leominster, and previous to 1885 worked for A. E. Lyon of this place, and was foreman for Martin Sanderson of Fitchburg. Mr. Burbank is a native of Alfred, Maine, and came to Leominster and was in the employ of Paul Webber for eight years.

CHARLES GREEN was born, and learned his trade in Westfield, Mass. He came to Leominster from Lunenburg, and has been engaged in the business here for the past 17 years.

F. S. NETTLETON has been a resident of Leominster for several years, working on Pianos and as Contractor and Builder the greater part of the time, being engaged in the latter business in Lowell, prior to coming to this town.

WILLIAM B. FRISSELL was born July 28, 1826, in Thetford, Vermont. When war was declared he enlisted, Nov. 28 1861, in Co. K, 6th N. H. Reg., for a three years service. He

came to Leominster in 1865. He has been engaged as Carpenter and Builder for 23 years.

WM. BOYNTON came to Leominster from Lunenburg, working here and in Fitchburg for several years. He built the F. G. Smith Piano Factory.

ELMER POWERS is a native of Leominster, and has recently commenced business on his own account, previously working for A. E. Lyon.

C. P. GREEN has recently started the business.

WM SMITH was for several years the principal brick mason, and his brother, Edmund C., before him. The former met with an accident some five or six years ago, which incapacitated him for labor for some time.

H. N. SPRING was born in Chester, Vt., March 14, 1842. He enlisted in the 17th Vermont Infantry, Feb. 15, 1864, for a term of three years, was discharged about March 1st, on account of a mistake in the quota of Springfield, where he enlisted; came to Leominster and enlisted July 15, 1864, in Co. E, 5th Mass. Vols., was appointed Corporal July 28, and was discharged Nov. 17, 1864; he enlisted in the Mass. State Militia in 1871, was chosen 2d Lieut. of Co. K, 6th Reg., Feb 4, 1879, and elected Capt. July 27, 1888. Resigned and received his discharge from the militia July 28, 1882. Capt. Spring has been several years in the business, and the leading contractor since his predecessor, Wm. Smith, gave up the business.

W. A. COOK is the only other mason in town.

THE CO-OPERATIVE BANK was organized April 26, 1888. The monthly meetings are held the third Friday evening of the month, in the Ladies Relief Corps Rooms, Bank Block, Main street. The officers are: Geo. W. Standley, Pres.; F. W. Tenney, Vice Pres.; W. E. White, Sec. and Treas.; Directors, E. F. Pierce, W. H. Wood, Chas. H. Rice, H. L. Harris, T. J. Ham, H. E. Davis, J. G. Tyler, A. E. Newton, F. E. Huntress.

Auditors, E. H. Bates, W. F. Lawrence, F. W. Osgood; Attorney, William E. White; Finance Committee, H. E. Davis, J. G. Tyler.

### EXPRESS.

WALTER T. ROBBINS has been in the Express business for for the past thirty years. The first Express Company doing business in town was Fiske & Co. Thomas Robbins was appointed agent for this company when the Fitchburg R. R. was built, at a salary of ten dollars a month, and when the Old Colony R. R. went into operation, Mr. Robbins employed Joseph Haskell at two dollars a month, to look after the express that came by that road. Upon the death of Mr. Robbins, his son, Walter T., succeeded to the business, remaining as agent of this company, and its successor, the U. S. & C. until the N. Y. & B. Despatch Express started in 1882, when he accepted the agency for the new company. C. E. Young, an old friend and an associate for years in the Express business, being appointed his successor. Mr. Robbins is a native and a life-long resident of Leominster. In addition to the Express business he has been interested in the livery business for years, more recently with Josiah Pierce, under the firm name of Pierce & Robbins.

F. W. TENNEY, expressman, has been in the employ of the company for the past year and a half. He is a native of Leominster, a son of Gilman Tenney.

FRANK W. JENKINS is the present agent of the U. S. & C. division of the American.

### HOTELS, - ETC.

THE LEOMINSTER HOTEL, Monument Square, is kept by Geo. S. Jones. A hotel has been located in that immediate vicinity for many years, the corner of Pleasant street and Monument Square, being an old tavern stand prior to the building of a hotel there, and its destruction by fire. George H. Cole, now

associated with his son, Wm. A., in conducting the American House in Fitchburg, was for several years landlord, previous to Mr. Jones becoming proprietor.

THE MARSHALL HOUSE, North Leominster, Mrs. Scarlett, proprietor, is also an old Hotel stand and the only public house in that part of the town.

CUMMINGS HOUSE, in Paton's Block, corner of Water and Mechanic street, near the Railroad station, is kept by W. H. Cummings.

THE LINDEN HOUSE on Church street, although strictly speaking, a private boarding house, yet has some transient patronage, and may be classed under this head. Mrs. E. Freeman has been for several years the proprietor.

THE CENTRAL HOUSE, Central, corner of Union, D. H. Murphy, proprietor, should also be mentioned.

LIVERY STABLES are run in connection with the two Hotels, by Pierce & Robbins, R. B. Parker, and C. S. Marshall & Co., at the center and J. G. Pierce in North Leominster.

TEAMSTERS AND TRUCKMEN are C. G. Morse, F. J. Lewis & Co., and M. H. Kittredge.

#### PAINTERS,—PAPER HANGERS.

LEVI TOWER is the longest established painter in town. He was employed by J. Augustus Kendall for about twenty-five years, until the death of Mr. Kendall, when he bought out the business. The other painters in town are Henry Joy, Divoll & Richardson, Jerome Phelps, T. S. Lord, F. F. Fiske and S. Derwin. The two latter are carriage and sign painters.

L. J. GIBSON is a life-long resident of Leominster and has been for several years a dealer in paper hangings, etc.

FOSTER BROTHERS, Paper Hangers, the firm consisting of Hugh and Martin Foster, twin brothers, are located in Cook's Block.

## TOBACCO AND CIGARS.

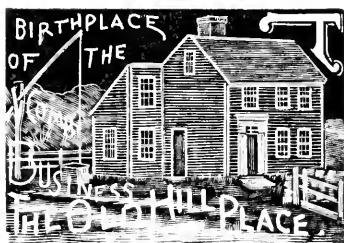
THOMPSON BROS., wholesale and retail Cigar and Tobacco dealers, located in Wood's Block in Nov. 1881. For a year past the business has been conducted by Elijah Thompson, retaining the firm name. Mr. Thompson is a native of Douglas, Mass., where he resided until the time of the Rebellion, when he enlisted, Aug. 19, 1862, in Company I, 51st Mass. Vols., his regiment remaining two months beyond the expiration of their time of service. He spent some fifteen years in Photography previous to engaging in his present business. Portrait in Military chapter.



## CHAPTER XII.

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### MANUFACTURING.



HAT the business interests of Leominster are more than usually varied, is evident from even a hasty review. Probably few towns in the Commonwealth exceed her in the number of mechanical industries, or in the skill and energy with which each is conducted. Many of these industries reach such magnitude that their products are familiarly known in all parts of the country, and some are even exported. It is further true, that many of these industries employ skilled workmen and so ensure to the town a large proportion of intelligent and thinking citizens. Leominster has always been noted for its thrift, for the general intelligence and good character of its inhabitants. This comes in part, at least, from the nature and variety of its mechanical interests. There is less danger that men will be without employment; a greater tendency to acquire and hold property, a general feeling of security which does much for the healthy and permanent growth of any town.

In this chapter the present business will be treated with only so much of history as will serve to set it in the proper light.



RESIDENCE OF A. W. WILLIAMS, GROVE AVENUE



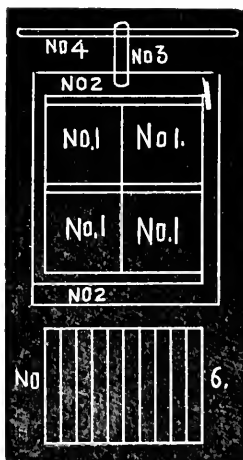
## COMB BUSINESS.

In writing of the different Leominster Industries, past or present, "The Comb Business" should have the place of honor. The reason is found in this fact; that while it was not the earliest mechanical business in Town, it was for many years more generally engaged in than any other, and from the nature of the business itself, and from the methods of manufacture at first used, it required very little capital and employed, in proportion to the value of the product, a very large per centum of labor. More than this, the business gave to Leominster the fact and the feeling of prosperity. In this business, men acquired wealth, moderate in amount, indeed, if measured by our present standards, but ample for the times. In this way, also, came that *well to do* feeling, which has always been characteristic of Leominster.

The comb business came to Leominster from West Newbury about the year 1775. The house where the business began is still a familiar landmark on Pleasant street, as you go towards the C. C. Boyden farm. The initial letter of this chapter, will be recognized as a good illustration of this house. This house, known as the old Hills house, was built in the year 1759 by Elias Carter and by him sold to Mr. Hills in 1774. It is now owned by Cornelius Whitcomb and B. F. Blodgett. Here, in the year above named, or very soon after, Obediah Hills commenced to make combs from horns. The kitchen of this house was the first comb shop. The work then, and for many years after was all done by hand. For some years Obediah, Smith and Silas Hills carried on this business, in a small way, in different places in town, but Joseph Tenney, John Chase and Edward Lowe, who all came to Leominster from West Newbury, as well as John Kendall and Jonathan Johnson were, also, among the early comb makers. As full a list as possible of the workers in this business will be given at the

end of this article. John Buzzell, who worked shell and ivory as well as horn, seems to have been the first to turn his attention to the question of tools for comb makers. His labor saving machinery caused many changes in the making of combs, improving the finish and increasing the facility of manufacturing.

Jabez Lowe together with Charles and Thomas Hills owned



the first screw press, which, for greater security against infringement, was built in a rude hut in Ashby woods before the patent was issued. The inventor was McPherson Smith and the original patent papers are now in the possession of Thos. A. Hills. The patent was issued Jan. 28, 1818, and the papers were signed by J. Q. Adams, Secretary of State. The press, as built then, is the same, in principle, as those in use in the comb shops of to-day, as will be seen by the accompanying cut.

Jonas Colburn was the first man who used cotton cloth balls for polishing combs, and the first and only comb maker who made rolled over combs, at one time doing considerable of that kind of work for other comb makers.

Ward M. Cotton invented the automatic machine, with cams, for cutting combs. He also made grails and other comb tools. The Buzzell quarternets and grails were also much used. The swing jaw cutting machine was invented by Mr. Damon.

At first the horns, used in this business, were of small value. The manufacturers often brought the material, after cutting the horns into pieces for use, from Worcester on horseback. The value of the product was thus largely a matter of labor, and so contributed most directly to the growth and prosperity of the town.

Even a brief description of comb-making in Leominster,

would require prominent mention of the Hills family, since this family not only had the honor of beginning the business here, but were also very largely engaged in its prosecution.

The family is of English origin. Mr. Joseph Hill, the ancestor of the Hills of Leominster, was born in Shrewsbury, England, in 1602, and came to Charlestown in 1638. He was four times married, his last wife being the widow of Henry Lunt of Newbury, Mass. From this place his descendants came to Leominster as stated above. While in Newbury Mr. Hill added the letter *s* to his name, that his family might not be lost in the increasing company bearing the same name. That he was a man of special ability and influence is evident from these facts. He represented Malden at the General Court in 1647 and 1656, was Speaker of the House in 1647. In 1648 he was appointed by the General Court one of a committee to codify the laws of the Commonwealth. As a return for this service he was exempt from taxation the last five years of his life. He filled other places of trust to his own honor and the advantage of the people. He died in Newbury in 1688.

Smith Hills, the immediate ancestor of the Leominster Hills, had only seventeen children, of whom Obadiah, the eleventh, and Silas, the fifteenth, have already been named as among the founders of the comb business in Leominster; Dea. Charles Hills, a son of Silas Hills, was the most prominent comb-maker in the Hills family of the second generation. After the war of 1812, he was engaged in this industry for more than thirty years. He also held many offices of trust and honor. He represented the town at the General Court, in 1830-40-41, and was a deacon of the Unitarian church from 1835 until his death. Three brothers of Dea. Charles Hills were comb makers by trade, and engaged in the business with him. For more than a century the descendants of Smith Hills owned and occupied the farm on Pleasant street, which he and his sons bought in

1774. Since 1859, however, so many changes have been made that no one of the family now own any part of the original estate.

The early methods employed in the manufacture of combs may be briefly described. It has been stated already that the work, at first, was all done by hand and the tools were few and rude. The horn was first cut into pieces with a common handsaw, split open and thrown into hot water to soften. It was then pressed flat by means of the old wedge press, which was one of the most conspicuous objects in all the early comb shops. This press was so arranged that when the pieces of horn were put in place, they could be pressed flat by means of wedges driven in opposite directions. When this work was finished, the pieces were taken from the press and again softened by soaking in hot water. They were then ready for the next step, which was the cutting of the teeth. This was done by means of a small handsaw. A sharp knife was used to shave the comb and the smoothing and the polishing was done by rubbing, first with sand and water, and, after coloring, with chalk and vinegar, or other preparations.

The bending was performed by using a number of small blocks of wood a foot long and three or four inches through. A small circular piece was cut from the side of each block of the exact size and shape desired, the comb put in its place and the piece cut from the block put over the comb. The whole was kept in place by a stick passed through staples in the sides of the blocks. In this way the comb was bent to the desired shape. When ready for market the combs were wrapped in the coarsest and poorest wrapping paper, in dozen packages, one of the number being placed on the outside as a sample. Boxes were used for packing combs about thirty-five years ago.

The change which time has brought to this as to all other business, can in no way be more clearly illustrated, than by

recalling the fact, that in the early days of comb-making, it was not unusual for a man to make up what combs he could, pack them in saddle bags and start for the Boston market. In these days of rapid transit, of varied and perfect machinery, of large sales and small profit, such a state of things seems hardly possible.

As illustrating some of the early ways of doing this business, reference may be made to Bezaleel Gibson, especially as his name does not elsewhere appear. In the year 1816, Mr. Gibson bought the old tavern stand of Levi Moore on West street, in which a few years later, (about 1820), he opened a country store. On the opposite side of the street, in a house, which at one time, was used for finishing cloth, he carried on a very large comb business. The trade in those days was mostly by barter, so called. Mr. Gibson sold his combs to dealers in Boston, and received in payment orders on the different stores in Leominster, whose owners bought goods of Mr. Gibson's Boston customers. These orders he would in turn dispose of to his help in the comb shop in payment for their services. In this way there was a continual round of trade, but very little money passed from hand to hand. To a man of that time, the weekly payment plan would have been a novelty indeed. The stores kept in town at that time, and where this barter was carried on, were owned by Joel C. and Henry Allen, Gen. Gibbs and Jonas K. Richardson, as well as that owned by Mr. Gibson himself.

At the time, now under consideration, the apprentice system was an important part of the comb business. The young men bound out to learn this trade, usually served not less than three years, and for the most part they lived in the family of their employer. Many of the old comb makers of Leominster learned their trade with Mr. Gibson. Among these may be named John Wetherbee, Franklin Lombard, George Wakefield,



Emerson Prescott, William Damon, John B. Davis, Josiah Richardson, Gardner Morse, Thomas B. Wilder and Montraville Buffum. Many more might be named no doubt. The full history of those days, when young men took time to learn a trade, would be alive with interest.

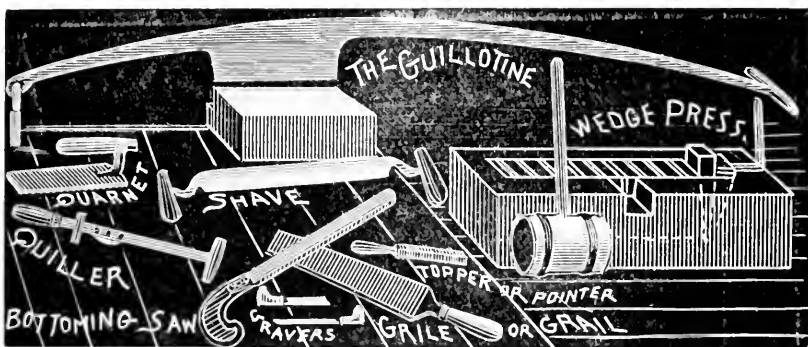
During the last part of his business life Mr. Gibson employed some forty men; and owing to the roundabout way of doing the business as above described, and the great care and anxiety involved, his mental powers failed. For sixteen years before his death, which occurred Aug. 5, 1855, he was forced to give up all active business. During these years he was cared for by his son, George P. Gibson.

Mr. Gibson was an earnest temperance man, a member of the first temperance Society in town; a Society organized about 1830. He was, also, one of the original members of the Orthodox Church.

This picture of comb making, with its slow hand work, its narrow quarters, its rude tools, its barter trade, its apprentice system, is after all, much of it, less than a century old; but so great progress has been made in this and all other kinds of manufacturing, our ideas have so changed as to life and business, that it seems to belong to an age not our own. On the opposite page is a cut which gives a clear idea of many of the tools used by the early comb makers.

As has been stated the old wedge press was an important accession in the comb business previous to the introduction of the screw press. It was made from a piece of timber, mortised to receive the iron plates and strips of horn placed between them, and the wedges were driven down with a heavy beetle. It was while at work at one of these presses that George W. Cook was fatally injured by a stroke of the mallet in the hands of a careless assistant. The guillotine was used after the pieces were cut and straightened, for removing the wrinkles

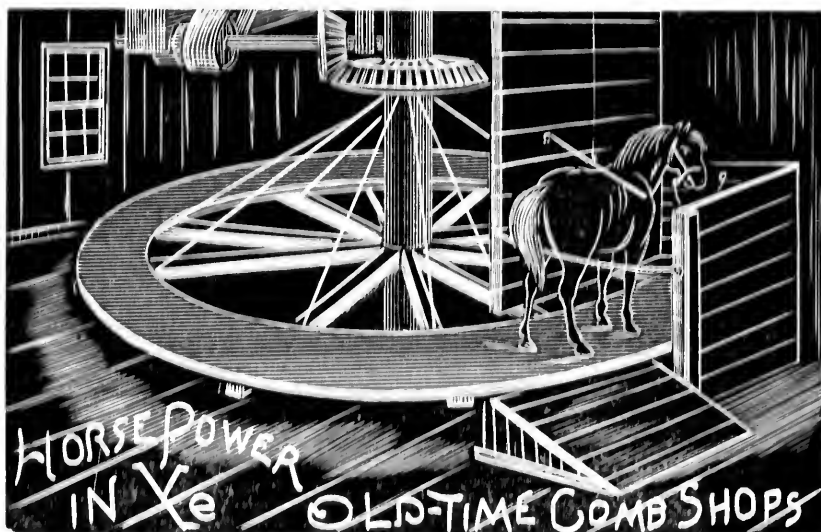
and flaws, the stock afterwards being still further reduced by the use of the crooked shave, and the standing horse, the latter allowing a person to stand upright and was similar to what are used by leather finishers. The Topper or Pointer was in use when the ends of the comb teeth were cut off square, but went out of use when they were made by machinery. The Grile or Grail was used for rounding off and finishing the teeth, and is used to a great extent at the present time, it being a tool of unusual application. The Quirnet was used principally on dressing combs, to even and smooth the surface after shaving. Engraving tools of various shapes are necessary in all comb shops, ancient or modern. The Quiller or Quilling Stock was



used for cutting a bead on the plain stock before the comb was shaped, instead of the later process of embossing. The Bottoming Saw was used for rounding and sharpening the spaces between the teeth.

The old fashioned wheel horse power, illustrated in the accompanying cut, as used in the early comb shops, is an interesting study in the light of modern improvements. They were located, usually, in the basement or first story, and the principal work was carried on in the story above. They were first used in the shops of Dea. Jonas Colburn, Charles Hill, T. C. Merriam, Rufus Kendall, and Thomas Hills, and later by James H. Carter and others. The old horse power building of

Thomas Hills, on Pleasant street, is still standing. Rufus Kendall was considerable of a land owner and employed a large number of persons in carrying on his business, for that period, at one time having fifty in his family. He also kept a store and engaged extensively in the salk business. Mr. Kendall was the owner of the largest and most elaborately planned of these horse powers. It consisted of a round wheel or platform over twenty feet in diameter, supported by a large center spindle reaching from the floor to the ceiling, and set at a slight



angle. The spindle was furnished with gearing which connected with the gearing on the main shaft. There was a stationary stall, one side of which was built from the floor, the other from the ceiling, with an inclined walk, up which the horse was led into the stall, and a strap fastened across. In addition to the usual appliances, there was, in this instance, an interesting contrivance for increasing the speed when desired. It was a cherry stick about three and a half feet long, hinged to the side of the stall, and connected by a string leading to a small boy in the story above. When the power slackened, the

boy worked the string, the horse struck a heavier gait and the machinery began to hum. To counteract the sudden increase of speed, a ponderous beam was suspended from the ceiling, one end resting on a drum on the shafting overhead, so arranged as to drop and produce friction, thus regulating the speed when necessary.

A somewhat amusing accident happened one day, which showed the necessity of transferring the brake directly to the wheel. The shop had passed into the hands of Jas. B. Cook, and on this occasion the management and control of the power was in the hands of the proprietor's young son. The persuader may or may not have been more vigorously applied than usual, at all events the speed increased at an alarming rate, the brake was put on suddenly, and every tooth in the gearing was broken out. An opening had to be made in the side of the building and a lever introduced against the platform as a brake before the wheel could be stopped and the horse released from his perilous situation.

Although the comb business is not now the chief industry of Leominster, there are still many prosperous firms in town who deserve special mention.

A. W. Williams has a large factory on Water Street. This business was started in 1871 by Charles L. Joslin, W. L. Palmer and A. W. Williams, under the firm name of Joslin, Palmer & Williams. In 1877, Mr. Palmer sold his interest to Joslin & Williams, and the business was carried on by them until Oct. 1882, when Mr. Joslin sold his interest to Mr. Williams, who, from that time, has conducted the business with Mr. Joslin as a partner.

Mr. A. W. Williams was born June 25, 1846, in Mr. Field, Mass., and educated in the Public Schools of Athol, Mass. He served a three years' apprenticeship to learn the gold jew-

elry trade, and followed that business until the breaking out of the war, when he enlisted in the 7th Mass. Regt., and served 22 months. From that time until he came to Leominster, Mr. Williams was foreman for Shaw & Capron, in the horn jewelry business at Mansfield, Mass., and Jersey City, N. J.

For the last three years Mr. Williams has been one of the directors in the Leominster National Bank.

THE PATON MANUFACTURING CO. Although this company is not now engaged in manufacturing, still it should be mentioned in this connection.

A. S. Paton, the head of this firm, was born in Dunbarton, Scotland, Nov. 20, 1854. He came to Leominster in 1871 and began work for the Union Comb Co. In 1879 he started business for himself in the upper story of the building on Mechanic street, where M. F. Morse now works. The firm was Wilder, Paton & Metcalf. Later this was changed to Paton & Metcalf and then to the Paton Manufacturing Co.

After the death of W. D. Somers, the business was moved to the Somers' shop on Central street and continued there until the shop was destroyed by fire the present year.

Mr. Paton is an active member of some of the fraternal societies, and is much interested in political matters. In 1881, he married Clara M., daughter of Mr. W. D. Somers.

TILTON AND COOK are doing a thriving business on Earl street, and employ about 35 hands. The firm consists of Edward B. Tilton and George H. Cook, and they began business at their present location, April 1, 1880, although the shop has since been enlarged. The firm manufacture combs or jewelry, as the market demands. Both members of the firm are natives of Leominster and were educated here. At one time Mr. Tilton studied music and was employed as organist at the Orthodox church, but for the most part both he and Mr. Cook have



GEO. H. COOK.



E. B. TILTON



A. S. PATON



O. H. SMITH.









WILLIAM D. EARL.



THOMAS A. EARL.



WILLIAM H. CHASE.



WILLIAM RODGER.

devoted their attention to comb business. They push their affairs with energy and success.

W. D. EARL & Co. This firm consists of the brothers, W. D. and T. A. Earl. They commenced the manufacture of horn goods in the year 1870, and are now doing business in the brick factory, owned by them, on Earl street. They employ about sixty hands in making horn combs, buttons, hair pins, etc. The goods are finely finished and prepared for the market with great care.

W. D. Earl, the elder brother, was born in North Attleboro', Aug. 5, 1830. He learned the jewelry business, and, in 1856, began trade for himself. In 1862, Mr. Earl went to Springfield, and was employed in the U. S. Armory as inspector, until 1864, when he removed to Boston, and went to work at the jewelry business for a number of years. He came to Leominster in 1870, and started business as above stated. Mr. Earl was married in 1857 to Miss Helen B. Corliss of Lowell, who died in 1869. He represented the town of Attleboro at the "General Court" in 1859 and again in 1862.

Thomas A. Earl is, also, a native of North Attleboro', where he was born June 12, 1832. He was associated with his brother in the manufacture of jewelry. In 1866 he came to Leominster and engaged in the manufacture of horn goods, and in 1870 united in forming the existing firm. June 9, 1869, he married Mary M. Prevear, daughter of Edward Prevear of this town. They have one son, who is now in his second year at the Institute of Technology, Boston.

B. F. BLODGETT & Co., comb and jewelry manufacturers. The firm consists of B. F. and E. F. Blodgett and D. E. True. The business was established in 1865 by B. F., E. F. Blodgett, & Alanson Richardson, and in 1874 D. E. True became a member of the firm. In 1876 Alanson Richardson sold his interest

in the business. The shop where the business is conducted was built by George L. Carter in 1869, and bought by B. F. Blodgett in 1878. The firm are doing a good business.

B. F. Blodgett, the senior member of this firm, was born in Chesterfield, N. H., July 17, 1822, and educated there. He came to Leominster in 1842. He worked at comb making for G. & A. Morse, Joslin & Adams, and was a member of the last named firm for three years, and bought out the firm in 1863. Afterwards he was in company with James B. Gallup and engaged in different business enterprises until the formation of the present partnership. Mr. Blodgett has served the town on the Board of Overseers of the Poor.

E. F. Blodgett is a native of Leominster, and was educated here. He was bred to the comb business, and like the other members of the firm, is a practical workman. He takes a lively interest in all town affairs.

D. E. True, the other member of the firm, is a native of Meredith, N. H., where he was born April 29, 1814.

DAMON, HOWE & Co. have their place of business on Cotton street, and manufacture combs and horn goods. Both are natives of Leominster. George R. Damon was born Nov. 4, 1843, learned the trade of his father, and after that was engaged with him under the firm name of Damon & Son. Mr. Damon served in the army during the war, enlisting first in the 36th Mass. Vols. and afterwards re-enlisting in the Mass. 6th. He has always been active in the Fire Department. He was Chief for five years and on the Board of Engineers for ten years. His term of service in all departments covers twenty years.

C. H. Howe was born Dec. 17, 1850, learned his trade of Patch & Smith, worked at the furniture and piano business until 1878, when he started in the horn and button business. At first the firm of Damon & Howe rented the building they now



S. F. BLODGETT.



E. F. BLODGETT.



J. P. F. (JOHN P. F.)



A. N. (ALFRED N.)



occupy, but acquired the property by purchase May 26, 1887.

**DERBY, WHITCOMB & Co.** This firm consists of Andrew G. Derby, Cornelius A. Whitcomb, Augustus G. Colburn. Two are old comb makers. They are doing a good business in a building long used for manufacturing combs, and facing on Mechanic street. Mr. Whitcomb was born in Leominster, Nov. 8, 1834. He worked at the comb business with his father in the shop of Thomas Hills and after that for Joslin & Adams. In 1857 he began work for Wheelock & Gilchrist, afterwards James Gilchrist, and continued until 1861, when he began business with Andrew G. Derby. In 1863 the business was consolidated with that of D. H. Wheelock, under the firm name of Derby, Wheelock & Whitcomb. From 1866 to 1869 the firm was Derby & Wheelock and since then Derby, Whitcomb & Co. Mr. George R. Damon being a member of the firm for a time. Mr. Whitcomb has held important positions of trust in town affairs, serving as Selectman and Overseer of the Poor. Mr. Colburn was born in Leominster, Dec. 7, 1843, and worked in the comb business until he was engaged with the present firm. Mr. Colburn enlisted in the 4th Reg. Mass., Heavy Artillery and made part of the Leominster quota in Co. K, although he did not enter the army from this town. Mr. Derby is a native of Leominster, has spent his life in the comb business as will appear from the above record of the business relations of Mr. Whitcomb.

**TENNEY AND PORTER.** This firm started business Nov. 1, 1836, and consists of C. H. Tenney and C. H. Porter. C. H. Tenney, a son of Gilman Tenney, is a native of Leominster, born Aug. 27, 1847. He learned his trade of Jonas Colburn, and was a member of the firm of Tenney, Kennan & Co., manufacturers of horn goods.

C. H. Porter was born Aug. 30, 1847, and therefore is

nearer a twin to his partner in age than in weight. Mr. Porter was interested in the firm of Tilton & Look and also in that of Look, Kenney & Porter. After this he was a member of the firm of F. A. Clapp & Co., dealers in horns, and then formed with Mr. Tenney his present business relations. This firm is doing a a profitable business. They employ about 25 hands and produce \$24,000 worth of goods annually.

JOSEPH F. GOODHUE does a limited business in the manufacture of horn goods, in a shop near his residence on Union St. Mr. Goodhue was born in Fitchburg, Oct. 19, 1831, and was educated in the Public Schools. At the age of eighteen he came to Leominster to learn the comb business, and served three and a half years with Gardner Morse. He commenced manufacturing in 1869 and continued until the present time.

H. E. DAVIS is manufacturing horn goods in the upper part of the building where John Mather's machine shop is. He is a native of Swanzey, N. H., and came to Leominster in 1854. He was a member of the firm of Castle & Davis. He started his present business in 1884.

SPILL BROTHERS continue the business of R. T. Spill & Co. This firm have always given special attention to the manufacture of raw horn dressing combs, and make the best comb of this kind in the market. They do business on Exchange St. Mr. George B. Forbes, who was in the firm of R. T. Spill & Co. is also engaged in this kind of business.

### HORN DEALERS.

C. PUFFER & Co. The two parts of this firm are the same ; Mr. Puffer is the sole owner of the business. He commenced as a dealer in horns in an office near the R. R. crossing on Mechanic street. The building was afterwards sold to C. W. Carter, and moved to Mt. Pleasant for a dwelling. At one time



C. A. TENNEY



C. H. PORTER.



FRED A. CLAPP.



H. E. ALLEN





Mr. Jacob Puffer, father of Charles Puffer, was a member of the firm of C. Puffer & Co.

Charles Puffer was born in Leominster Dec. 7, 1833. He learned the comb trade of Thomas B. Wilder, who carried on the business on West street, working at his trade until he began business for himself.

F. A. CLAPP & CO., DEALERS IN HORNS. This business has been carried on for some years by different parties, but is now conducted by F. A. Clapp. Mr. Clapp is a native of Conway, Mass., and came to Leominster in 1871. At first he worked for Joslin, Palmer & Williams, but about 1878 engaged with W. F. Bigelow in the business of selling horns; office in Locke's shop. After disposing of this business he began the manufacture of buttons in the shop of Tenney & Kenney, but sold the business to Porter and Metcalf, and returned to the selling of horns, this time in company with C. H. Porter. About two years ago Mr. Clapp bought the interest of C. H. Porter and has since conducted the business under the above firm name.

### HORN BRIC-A-BRAC.

HORN BRIC-A-BRAC. This business, which is really a part of the comb business, is carried on by P. F. Lane and M. F. Morse. Mr. Lane began business in this line twelve years ago, making a specialty of horn chairs and of mounting horns. More recently Mr. Lane has manufactured the smaller goods of this kind.

M. F. Morse started in this business in May 1884. He commenced by finishing horns, but gradually extended the works to include small ornaments in this line. During the past two years one customer of Mr. Morse has used 60,000 horns. Last Sept. he bought out the Fitchburg Spirit Level Co., and is now making their goods.

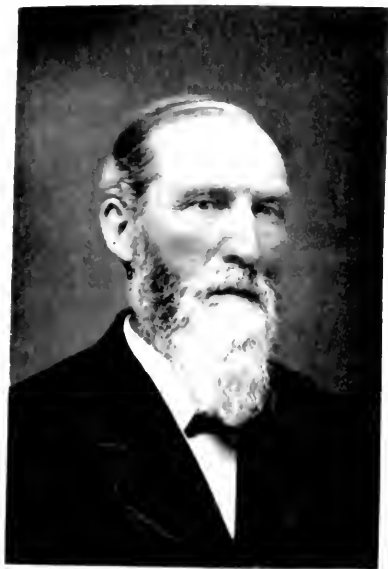
The factories of these parties are well worthy of a visit, containing, as they do, many interesting and beautiful articles.

The business of Joel Smith & Co., has not been disposed of as yet, and sufficient reference has been made to it in the sketch of Mr. Smith. Mr. Alanson Richardson and other men who have been prominent in the comb making business, who are not now doing business, will be mentioned in the last chapter.

The following named persons were well known comb manufacturers at different times engaged in business here. Obadiah, Smith, Charles, Silas, Alvah, and Emerson Hills, Abel Artemas and John Bowers, Bezaleel Gibson, John Jones, Jacob Puffer, Joel Smith, Maj. Seneca Colburn, Joseph, Gardner and Thomas G. Merriam, James and Phineas Burdett, Gardner and Augustus Morse, Jacob and Jonas Colburn, Rufus and John Kendall, Henry Johnson, George Wakefield, Emerson Prescott, James H. Carter, Edmund H. Nichols, Capt. Thomas Hills, M. Damon, George W. Graves, Alexander B. Gibson.

EYE GLASSES. This business is closely connected with the making of horn goods. It was started in Leominster, Jan. 1874, by J. W. Wetherbee. In 1875, Mr. W. B. Tisdale became connected with the business, which was conducted under the firm name of Wetherbee & Tisdale. The goods were manufactured in a part of the Lockey Piano Shop. In August, 1882, the factory, machinery, stock, etc., were destroyed by fire. About this time Mr. Tisdale withdrew from the firm, but the business has been conducted by Mr. Wetherbee until now, a part of the time in connection with the Celluloid Works of Booth & Wetherbee. Mr. Wetherbee now has his factory and office on Mechanic street.

Mr. J. W. Wetherbee is a native of Leominster. Until 1874 he was employed in the horn business except while in the



WADE H. JEWETT.



C. A. WHITCOMB.



J. W. M. WETHERBEE.



ALDRICH COOK



4th Mass. Heavy Artillery during the war. He married Clara, second daughter of Mr. Charles L. Joslin of this town.

### PAPER MAKING.

The manufacture of paper in different forms must be named among the early and profitable industries of Leominster, and one which still forms a very important part of her mechanical life. Three paper mills in all, had been built on the Nashua river prior to the year 1803. The first was built by William Nichols and Jonas Kendall, and stood a few rods below the present mill of the George W. Wheelwright Paper Company, North Leominster. This mill was some 75 feet long by 40 wide, and had two stories above the basement. The rag and vat rooms were on the first floor, and the rest of the building was used for press and drying rooms. About 25 hands were employed. Dea. Samuel Crocker of this town, who is still actively interested in the paper business, was at one time employed in this mill. The work was mostly done by hand, and only about 100 pounds of paper could be made in a day; but with the aid of machinery the same number of hands could now manufacture over two tons. The annual product of this mill as estimated by Mr. Wilder was about \$4000. This mill was burned in 1810, but rebuilt the next year. The first cylinder machine was used by Jonas Kendall & Sons in 1825, and the first Fourdrinier machine in 1833. This firm greatly increased the capacity and product of the mill. In 1845 this property passed into the hands of Edward Crehore, who enlarged the buildings, made use of steam, and increased the value of the annual product to about seventy thousand dollars.

Nichols & Kendall built a second paper mill in 1801, a short distance below the first. This was operated by the firm until 1804, when the firm dissolved, and Nichols continued the busi-

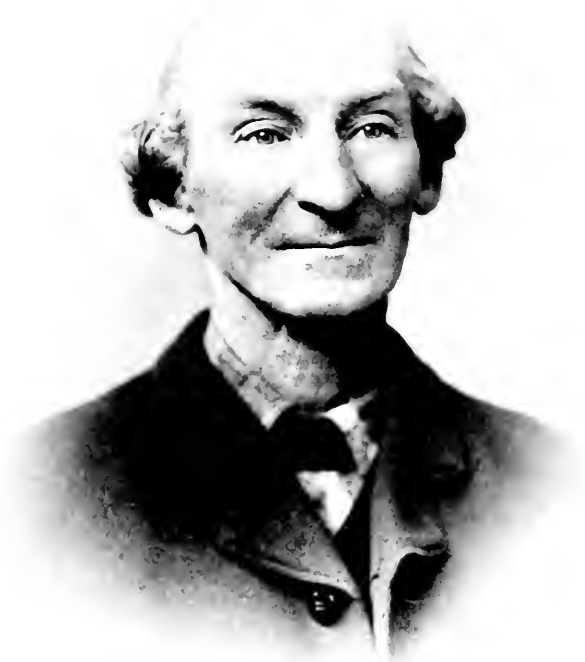
ness until 1818. The mill was then sold to A. J. Allen of Boston; but in a few years it was taken down as unfit for use. A grist, saw and oil mill were at one time connected with this lower factory.

Caleb Leland erected a third paper mill in 1802. It was located about two hundred rods further up the river than the other. It was about the size of the original mill, and was operated by Leland till 1807. After this Edward Simmons owned this mill till 1836, and sold it to William Parsons of Boston. Mr. Wilder estimates the product of this mill at \$14,000 annually. It probably stood near the site of Merriam, Hall & Co.'s furniture shop. At this writing the time when the mill ceased to be used cannot be given. The original paper mill was sold by Edward Crehore to Mr. Wheelwright about thirty years ago, was enlarged and improved by him, and has been further enlarged by the present owners, the George W. Wheelwright Paper Co., till the product of the mill now equals seven tons daily, and has a yearly value of three hundred thousand dollars. This firm is very successful in the manufacture of Bristols, and other boards of this kind.

### TANNERY.

PHELPS & HARRISON are the present representatives of the tannery business in Leominster. The business itself, however, dates back to the time of Dea. William Burrage, father of the late Dea. Leonard Burrage. Many will remember the old tannery built by him on the Burrage estate, North Leominster. The building remained standing until within a few years. This business was carried on by Dea. William Burrage and by his son Leonard for many years, and still later by Babcock and Burrage. It was moved by them to its present location.

Mr. Louis Phelps, the senior partner of the present firm, learned his trade of Babcock & Burrage, and in 1851, in com-



LOUIS PHELPS





pany with Samuel Putnam, bought the business of his employers. They started under the firm name of Putnam & Phelps. The shop occupied by the business at present was built in 1869. This firm did a large and prosperous business during the war, and continued in manufacturing until 1883, when Mr. Putnam withdrew and Mr. William H. Harrison took his place; the firm name is Phelps and Harrison.

Louis Phelps was born in Lancaster, Mass., Oct. 29, 1826. He came to Leominster in 1844, and began work for Babcock & Burrage, and finally bought the business of his employers as already stated.

William H. Harrison is a native of Chesterfield, N. H. He came to Leominster at an early age, and received his education in the public schools of this town. He learned the trade of a tanner and worked for Putnam & Phelps until 1883, when he became a member of the new firm. Both Mr. Phelps and Mr. Harrison are practical tanners, stirring and honorable men, and the firm is doing a large and successful business. They employ about 67 hands, and the product of the tannery equals a quarter of a million dollars annually.

### BOOTS & SHOES.

The manufacture of shoes has been, for many years, an important industry in Leominster; and, judging from present indications it is likely to increase in value and extent, but with the exception of the nine years previous to 1845, when the Burrages were engaged in this business, very little was done in this line outside of the establishment of Mr. M. D. Haws, of North Leominster, until the factory of Valpey & Anthony was built.

The business of custom boot and shoe making was begun at North Leominster, soon after 1796. In that year Mr. Ben-

jamin Haws, grandfather of Mr. M. D. Haws of this town, moved to Leominster, bought land on the southwest side of the Nashua river and built a small shoe shop nearly opposite the present home of Mr. M. D. Haws. This business descended to his son, as stated in the sketch of Major Amos Haws, and was by him sold to Bartimus Tenney about 1833. The value of the business during this time cannot now be given ; but when it came into the hands of Mr. M. D. Haws, June 9, 1839, some three or four hands were employed. This business Mr. Haws continued until Nov. 1, 1885.

MANSON DANA HAWS is a native of Leominster. He was born Aug. 28, 1817, educated, for the most part in the public schools, prominent in business here for more than forty-six years, Mr. Haws has always been in active sympathy with all the best interests of the town. He learned the business of shoe making in Fitchburg and Worcester, and after a year spent as a journeyman in different places, he began business at North Leominster, as stated above. At first the making of men's boots was a part of the product of his factory ; but this branch of the business was finally dropped, and the work largely confined to the making of ladies' shoes ; although some men's shoes were made as long as Mr. Haws continued the manufacturing. As already stated the factory employed about three hands in the beginning on custom work ; but during and after the war this number was increased to eighteen or twenty. The value of the goods manufactured was, as nearly as known, fifty thousand dollars a year. As the business increased the old shop was moved to Lancaster street, converted into a dwelling house, and a new one built on the site of the present factory. This has been twice enlarged, once to accommodate the business itself, and the second time to give more room to manufacturing and to admit of using steam power.





Mr. Haws conducted his business with rare skill and energy, making his own sales and purchases, while still giving personal attention to all the details of the work. In proof of this it may be said, that the help in his shop were never out of work during these forty-six years, except when there was a change to be made in the buildings. If the factory stopped at other times it was because the help desired a vacation. Few men, who have employed others, could say as much. Nov. 1st, 1885, Mr. Haws rented the factory to Mr. H. O. Smith and retired from the manufacturing business, with the esteem of his fellow citizens and the confidence of all with whom he had held business relations.

As a business man Mr. Haws is prompt, energetic, exact and methodical. He gives personal attention to whatever he wishes well done. It may be stated in proof that, when the Government investigated the Internal Revenue after the war, Mr. Haws' books were found correct. A fact in which he may well take just pride. Mr. Haws has deserved and received many marks of public favor. He represented the town at the "General Court" in 1862, was for six years a member, and for three years Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, took the lead in introducing town water, as stated under that head, and was for many years after called to preside at the annual and other meetings of the town. In all these ways he has rendered honorable and acceptable public service.

He has been prominent also in financial matters. At one time he was a director of the First National Bank. He was one of the incorporators of the Leominster Savings Bank, a trustee from 1867 to 1870. Since 1875 he has been a director of the Rollstone National Bank, Fitchburg, and in 1879 was elected trustee of the Worcester North Savings Institution. He is often entrusted with estates, both as executor and trus-

tee, and in more than one instance, although the value of the property has exceeded a hundred thousand dollars, he has at the request of the testator, been excused from giving surety on his personal bond.

March 6th, 1842, Mr. Haws married Miss Lucy Ann Graham, of Lunenburg. They have no children.

MR. O. H. SMITH, who rented the Haws' factory, Nov. 1, 1885 is a native of West Newbury, Mass., where he was born Feb. 5, 1842. He was educated in the Public Schools and at Groveland Academy. Mr. Smith was in the army and navy during the four years of the war. He is thoroughly master of the shoe business. He served four years as foreman for N. S. Cutler of Bernardston, Mass., and before coming to Leominster was a member of the firm of Baker & Creighton, Lynn, Mass. The business is now wholly confined to the manufacture of ladies' and misses' shoes. The business has increased and Mr. Smith has requested and Mr. Haws has consented to enlarge the factory by a three story addition of thirty feet to the main building.

VALPEY & ANTHONY. The place where the factory of this firm is located was utilized a century and a half ago for business purposes. Here stood, no doubt, the saw mill of Josiah White, built before 1740; and here, when the first mutterings of the Revolution were heard, Joseph Beaman built a grist mill. It was at this place that the piano case industry was started in Leominster. The later building, on this spot, by Hon. J. H. Lockey, is noted in its proper connection.

The business of Valpey & Anthony, the making of Ladies' Shoes, was started in the city of Lynn, about twenty years ago, by H. R. Valpey and J. C. Anthony, who, by their skill and energy,—for both gentlemen are thorough practical workmen and well acquainted with all the details of the business—it has



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been carried from small beginnings to its present high standing and prosperous condition. In 1886, when labor troubles in the large cities made it desirable to transfer the shoe business, in part at least, from these great centres, Mr. Anthony came to Leominster, after making a tour elsewhere, and was so favorably impressed by the advantages of the place and the good will of leading business men, that the firm purchased of the First National Bank the land where their factory now stands. The buildings were finished early the following year. The factory is large and convenient. It is 135 feet long by 35 feet wide, with a boiler and engine room 30 feet square. The main building is four stories high, thoroughly finished and adapted to the uses of the firm. Everything about the place speaks of thrifty and energetic business methods. In Lynn this firm employ over two hundred hands, and in Leominster about seventy-five; but what is now a branch of the main business, in the end, may increase to include the whole. The shoe business, as it stands to-day, is one of the most promising of Leominster's industries.

#### PIANOS AND PIANO CASES.

Both from the character of the employes and the value of the product, the piano business is an important industry in any community. It has proved so in Leominster. The business is prosperous, and employs a large number of very intelligent and skilful workmen.

Mr. J. C. Lane was the first to do Piano work in Leominster. About the year 1845, he began to make skeleton Piano cases in a small shop, located where Valpey & Anthony's factory now stands. Soon after, J. C. Gove, one of Mr. Lane's workmen, began to make desks and the smaller parts of the piano. About the same time, also, Luther Stone engaged in

making piano keys. This work was, at first, done by hand in a small house on Main street, where the Albert Lamb place now is. When power was needed, Mr. Stone removed his business to the shop on Mechanic street now occupied by Tenney & Porter. Here the making of Piano Keys was continued for several years, by Mr. Stone.

The first finished piano cases which Mr. Lane made in town were veneered by Mr. Andrew G. Reckard, who is still engaged in making pianos. But Mr. Lane was already engaged in building a larger shop, and one better suited to his business. This shop, to which he soon moved, was a wooden building now owned and used by the Reed Toy Company. Here he continued the business for some years, and then sold his stock, &c., to Mr. John H. Lockey, who was at one time his foreman. Mr. Lane moved to a shop which occupied the site of the present woolen mill, and continued his business for three years, but in the end he moved back to his old factory. He continued business until 1857. His brother, Howard M. Lane, carried on the same business at the same place for about 20 years. Other firms which have at different times engaged in the piano business here, but which are not now in existence, will receive sufficient mention in connection with the present manufacturers.

THE JOHN H. LOCKEY PIANO CASE COMPANY. While the business of this company has been conducted under the present name only a few months, the business itself really dates back to 1851, and so is the oldest in town. At that time Mr. John H. Lockey began to make piano cases in the wooden building which has been mentioned as forming a part of the Reed Toy Co.'s works, and he has continued, either alone or in company with his brother, in this business most of the time since then. The other member of the company, John M. Lockey, has al-



JOHN H. LOCKEY.



ready been mentioned under the article of Insurance. The business is large and prosperous. The company employ a large number of hands, and the cases made by them are in all respects equal to the very best in the country.

JOHN H. LOCKEY, the senior member of the company, was born in St. Johns, N. B., July 25, 1822, and came to Leominster in 1847. At first he was foreman for J. C. Lane, but in 1851 started business for himself as stated above. About three years later he built a new factory on the ground now occupied by the shoe factory of Valpey and Anthony, and continued the business there until the building was destroyed by fire in 1861. Mr. Lockey also engaged in the manufacture of corn planters with Mr. William M. Howland, and when this business did not succeed, he began in 1856 to make apple parers. This proved a very profitable business. When the shop was burned Mr. Lockey had it rebuilt and ready for use in about two months. He did not at once resume the piano case business, but continued with Mr. Howland until 1866, when he bought Mr. Howland's interest in the apple parer business. Mr. Lockey continued to make these machines for a few years, but finally sold his interest and the business was moved from town.

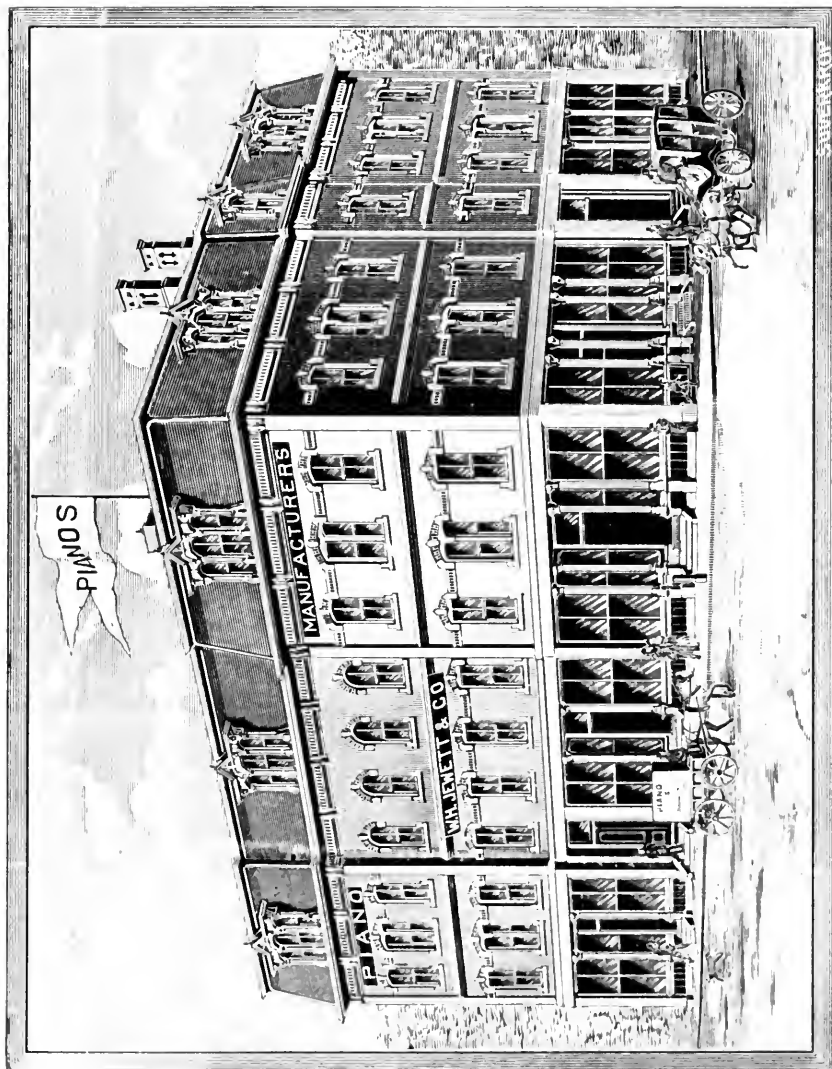
In 1871, Mr. Lockey, in company with his brother, Joseph P. Lockey, resumed the making of Piano Cases, under the firm name of Lockey Bros. A new shop was built by Mr. Lockey — the one now occupied by him — on land bought of the late James Bennett, Esq.; the two factories were connected by a bridge over the railroad. Lockey Brothers, while in business had one of the largest and best appointed Piano Case factories in the country. Afterwards Mr. J. P. Lockey sold his interest to his brother, who conducted the business alone until the John H. Lockey Piano Case Co., was formed Oct. 1887.

Some years before Mr. Lockey's building on the east side of

the railroad was burned, his piano case business had been transferred to the new shop. For a number of years, part of the work was done in a shop located further down on Mechanic street; but the present season, the main building has been enlarged and all the work is now done under one roof. This company employ skilled workmen, many of whom have been in Mr. Lockey's employ for years, and some almost from the time when he began business. This fact is worthy of record, for if such workmen remain permanently with any man, he must show most honorable consideration for their interests.

Mr. Lockey has served the town in many positions of public and private trust, which it is not necessary to name in detail. He was one of the corporate members of the Leominster Savings Bank, President of the First National Bank, represented the town in the House at Boston, in 1866 and the district in the Senate in 1867 and 1869, and has in addition served the town in strictly town affairs. His taste and liberality in building and his skill and energy in business have aided much in the growth and prosperity of the town.

WADE H. JEWETT, the senior member of this firm, was born in Amesbury, Mass., March 4, 1819. In 1840 he formed a co-partnership with his brother, A. H. Jewett, and began the business of manufacturing fine furniture. This firm was dissolved in 1847, and Mr. Jewett removed to Worcester, where he entered the employ of Daniel Wilder, and learned the art of making piano cases. He was afterward employed by R. L. & D. W. Goss at Montague, Mass., and in 1856 came to Leominster, where he found employment in the piano case manufactory of Gove & Howard. In 1861 Mr. Jewett formed a co-partnership with the late George A. Allen in the firm known as Allen & Jewett, manufacturers of piano-fortes and piano cases. The factory of this firm was destroyed by fire in Feb., 1864, and was a total loss, there being no insurance on building or contents.







They pluckily rose from the ashes, however, obtained accommodations in another locality, and continued the business until 1869, when Mr. Allen retired. Mr. Jewett remained alone until Oct., 1870, when R. B. Richardson of Woburn became associated with him under the firm name of W. H. Jewett & Co. Early in 1885 this firm dissolved, Mr. Richardson retiring, and Mr. Jewett's two sons, W. P. and W. G. Jewett, and a nephew, F. J. Woodbury, became interested in the business under the old firm name. These young men have been connected with the factory from boyhood, thus becoming thoroughly practical in the art of piano making, which, combined with a complete commercial education, enables them to successfully conduct the business, which has made rapid strides of advancement under their management.

MR. A. G. RECKARD, who has had an experience of more than forty years in the business, is the proprietor of a small piano-forte factory near his residence on Church street. When Mr. Reckard first came to Leominster he was employed by J. C. Lane, and eventually became his foreman. He afterwards worked for Allen & Jewett and also for the Arlington Piano Company. After this firm closed out their business, Mr. Reckard began manufacturing for himself. Every instrument made by him passes through his own hands, and before it is shipped each part is thoroughly examined. The pianos made by him are therefore equal to the best manufactured.

Mr. Reckard is a native of Maine. He has been familiar with tools from early boyhood; but at the age of sixteen he began an apprenticeship for the cabinet maker's trade. He has held important positions in leading piano-forte manufactories, is a most thorough workman, and possesses an ear at once delicate and correct for musical sounds. He is thus admirably fitted for this business, and his work will stand the closest test.

F. G. SMITH PIANO CASE WORKS. It is probable that the privilege now used by Mr. Smith was improved not far from 1763. Near that time Mark Lincoln erected a fulling mill at this place, and employed skilled workmen in the business of dressing home-made cloth. Capt. Ephraim Lincoln succeeded his father, and later still Dea. Otis Stearns, who had learned his trade of him, carried on the business for some years. This mill and power were afterwards used in the manufacture of combs by Messrs. Wheelock & Fletcher, and by them sold to the Porters in 1857. They built a new dam and a new factory, and put in a new water wheel, before beginning the manufacture of hay racks. This business was continued by them for four years, when they began the making of piano cases. In the spring of 1880 the business was sold to Steinway & Sons of New York.

Mr. Smith's Leominster factory, where Piano Cases only are made, is under the management of Mr. Levi Porter, who is a very skilfull mechanic.

Sept. 2, 1880, the factory was completely destroyed by fire. The present building, which is on the south side of the stream—the old factory was on the north—was in process of erection at the time of the fire. It was the purpose of Steinway and Sons to use the new shop for a finishing department. After the fire the new building was leased to Porter Brothers for a year and a half and at the end of that time Steinway & Sons sold the property to the present owner, F. G. Smith. Mr. Smith is the successor of Wm. Bradbury and one of the largest Piano manufacturers in the United States.

Levi Porter was born in Marlboro, N. H., April 5th, 1826, and his brother, Sawyer Porter, at the same place Aug. 2, 1824. Both came to Leominster in 1853. They began work for Morse, Heustis & Dunn, in Morseville, who at that time were



L. W. PORTER.



J. P. LOCKEY.



F. S. COOLIDGE.



A. WHITNEY.



manufacturing Piano Cases. Afterwards they worked for John H. Lockey of Leominster, and L. W. Page of Fitchburg. In the summer of 1857, they worked for Walter Knowlton, building the house which was owned by Mr. Knowlton at the time of his death. This was just before the beginning of the business enterprise above mentioned. The factory, as now conducted, employs a large number of hands and is doing an extensive business.

CHARLES J. COBLEIGH, Piano Case Works, West Leominster. The original building on this site was erected by S. A. Meads, and by him designed for a sash and blind shop. When, however, the factory of the Arlington Piano Company was burned, this property was purchased and used for some years by them for the manufacture of pianos. In January, 1880, the property was bought by its present owner.

Mr. Cobleigh was born in Westminster, Nov. 2, 1851. He moved from that place to Jaffrey, N. H., and also lived for a time in Worcester, Mass. He came to Leominster in 1870, and began work for John H. Lockey, making piano cases. Afterwards he was employed in the same business by Porter Bros. In 1876 Mr. Cobleigh worked for J. H. Shaw & Co., of Hudson, Mass.

In August, 1879, Mr. Cobleigh began business for himself as a manufacturer of piano cases. At first the business was conducted in the upper part of Tenney & Kenney's planing mill, but in January, 1880, Mr. Cobleigh bought the property at West Leominster as already stated and moved his business to that place. Since that time he has made large additions to the old factory, besides building new dry houses and putting in a side track from the O. C. R. R. to accommodate the rapid increase of his business. It is very largely due to his energy and skill that West Leominster is to-day a thriving and busy

part of the town. When the business was removed there in 1880, Mr. Cobleigh employed only twenty hands, but he has since increased that number to one hundred. The business has been pushed with peculiar energy and success.

Mr. Cobleigh has greatly benefited that part of the town in other ways. He bought of W. H. Hoßmer the old Capt. Balch place, on the corner of Main and Nelson streets, and of Waldo Whitney his house and grounds on Nelson street. He has greatly improved these places, especially the first-named. So much so, that what was, a few years ago, a rather unsightly dwelling, has now an air of comfort and well-kept thrift, which makes an attractive corner. It was, also, largely owing to the energy and influence of Mr. Cobleigh that the station at West Leominster was built.

April 15, 1875, Mr. Cobleigh married Miss Martha Conant of Leominster.

J. P. LOCKEY & CO. This firm began the business of making piano cases in June, 1885, leasing for that purpose the Union Comb factory. This factory had been previously fitted up for the manufacture of piano cases. They remained there till Oct. 1st, 1886, when their lease expired and the property was sold. They then moved to the shop and mill belonging to Mr. George L. Rice, better known as the Whitney & Rice mill, on Mechanic street. Mr. Rice, at that time, became associated with them, the firm name remaining the same. Their business now is manufacturing piano cases of all kinds, a line of piano and organ stools, packing boxes, and sawing lumber, it now being the only saw mill in town. The mill of this firm has sawed over one million feet of lumber a year the last two years, and is likely to continue sawing the same amount for several years to come. Their piano cases are made under contract for New York and Boston houses. As the capacity of the

plant has proved insufficient to meet the demands for the goods of the firm, they are now building an addition which, when completed, will give them a large factory, well arranged with all modern improvements and appliances.

JOSLPH P. LOCKEY was born in Carleton, N. B., April 14, 1832. Soon after leaving school he was employed in his father's store in St. John's, N. B. Not having a special taste for that business, he came to Boston in 1849 and worked two years in Dorchester, Mass., learning the cabinet maker's trade. In 1851 he came to Leominster and commenced to work for his brother, Mr. John H. Lockey, who was then engaged in the manufacture of piano-forte cases. After working at this a few years, having a desire to travel and see more of the country, he went West, landing in Lawrence, Kansas, the day of the first territorial election, and had the pleasure of casting his vote on the free state side in face of an armed opposition of border ruffians. Mr. Lockey located in Leavenworth city, Kansas, in 1855, and was getting well established in business there, but, as he espoused the free state cause, his sentiments were not received with favor by the pro slavery side, Leavenworth, at that time being the hot-bed of the pro slavery party. He was given twenty-four hours notice, either to take up arms with them or leave the territory. Not choosing to accept of these terms, he was forced to leave Leavenworth, and while absent, all of his personal effects were either confiscated or destroyed. After leaving Leavenworth he located in Johnson county, Kansas, forty miles west of Kansas City, and remained there until the spring of 1858, when he joined a party going overland to California via the newly-discovered gold mines of Colorado. After remaining in California one year, and having had a six years experience of frontier life, the hardships and exposures of which had in some degree affected his health, he decided to return East, and always considering Leominster his favorite



town, he decided to locate here for life. In 1862 he commenced business in Leominster in company with Mr. J. G. Tenney, manufacturing piano cases in a shop belonging to Mr. J. H. Lockey. Mr. Tenney retiring in 1865, Mr. Lockey continued until 1871, when he became associated with his brother under the firm name of Lockey Bros., as stated above.

Mr. Lockey married Miss Catherine S. Colburn, youngest daughter of Major Seneca Colburn. They have two sons. Mr. Lockey, although devoting his time largely to private business, has taken a deep interest in the affairs of the town, and has served on the Board of Engineers and as Selectman.

MR. HOLDEN is a native of Clarendon, Vermont, received his business training in the office of Thompson, Perley & Waite, chair manufacturers in Baldwinsville, came to Leominster to engage in business in 1885 with Mr. J. P. Lockey, as already stated.

GEO. L. RICE is a native of Leominster. He was born May 4, 1845, and worked at farming until the beginning of the Civil War, when he enlisted in the 53rd Mass. Vols. In 1880 Mr. Rice commenced the lumber business in connection with F. A. Whitney, under the firm name of Whitney & Rice. At first the business was conducted at the mill on Earl street, since fitted up as a comb shop for Tilton & Cook. Later, the present factory of J. P. Lockey was built. In 1884 Mr. Rice bought the interest of F. A. Whitney, and in 1886 he engaged in the piano business in the firm of J. P. Lockey & Co.

### CHILDREN'S CARRIAGES.

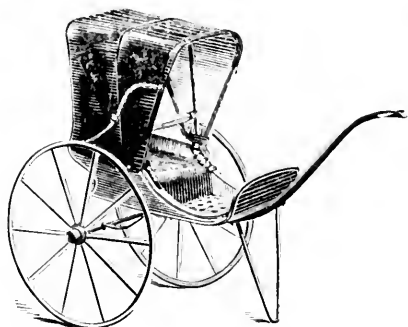
The manufacture of children's carriages in Leominster was begun in a very modest manner by F. W. and F. A. Whitney in the year 1858, at which time the few in use were as a rule homely in shape and rudely constructed. The present beauty



F. A. WHITNEY.



and perfection in design was not even dreamed of at that time, and it was a slight and unimportant circumstance which led to the establishment of this valuable industry in Leominster.



1858



1862

While on a visit to Greenfield, Mass., Mr. F. W. Whitney noticed on the street a baby carriage somewhat different from the stereotyped pattern, and it occurred to him that the manufacture in new and attractive designs might be made profitable. Upon his return home he consulted his cousin, Mr. F. A. Whitney, and found him equally confident, and ready to embark in



1867



1873

the business. Accordingly they hired a small portion of the Lockey shop, located where the shoe factory of Messrs. Valpey

& Anthony now stands, and with only a few men in their employ began work. In 1861, soon after the outbreak of the civil war, Mr. F. A. Whitney sold his interest to Mr. F. W. Whitney,



1877



1879

and entered the service of the Christian Commission. After some months of labor he returned and purchased once more his share in the business. In 1862 the building they partially oc-



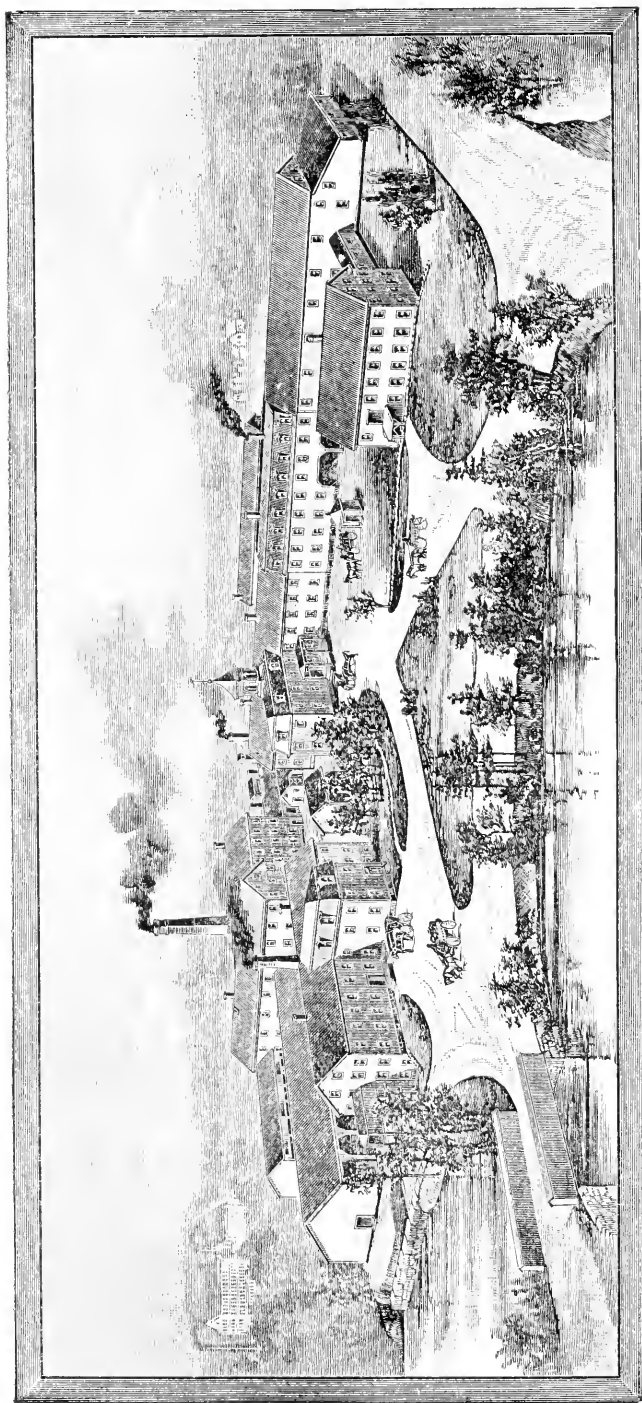
1886



1888

cupied was consumed by fire, occasioning much loss with no insurance. With the exception of one planer, scarcely any





BIRDS-EYE VIEW OF THE F. A. WHITNEY CARRIAGE CO.'S WORKS.

thing was saved from the fire. This planer is still in use by the company. After the fire the firm resumed work in the shop recently occupied by the Leominster Worsted Co. on Water street, using two other buildings, located where the depot now stands, for finishing purposes. In 1863 Mr. F. A. Whitney purchased the entire business. In 1865 he was requested to vacate the position he then occupied, and then arose a problem, difficult to solve, where he should next locate. The water privilege to be obtained upon the tract of land known as "Paradise" settled the question, and accordingly he erected at once the westerly of the present group of buildings. A more desirable spot could hardly have been chosen. It was conspicuous for its natural beauty, and perfectly suited to the growing requirements of the business whose early history had always been attended by uncertainty and discouragement, the losses by fire and removals making it seem an unequal struggle. Then the difficulty of conveying goods to town arose; as there was no bridge across the stream, it was necessary to carry them by a path through the woods for nearly a mile. Finally Mr. Whitney petitioned the town to build a bridge. There was much opposition by some of the leading citizens, but after a time, owing in a great measure to the influence of Mr. Alfred L. Burditt, chairman of the board of Selectmen, and his associates, a bridge was built, which has since been replaced by a substantial iron structure. Other buildings were erected, and the business grew and increased until, while in the first two or three years five or six hundred covered the number of carriages manufactured, 1871 found the sales enlarged to twelve thousand. At that time, in order to still better facilitate business, a joint company was formed and incorporated known as The F. A. Whitney Carriage Company, with F. A. Whitney, Pres., F. W. Whitney, Treas., William B. Whitney, Supt. of wood and iron



department, and S. M. Frost, Sec. and traveling salesman. F. A. Whitney, F. W. Whitney, William B. Whitney and S. M. Frost were directors and owners of the entire stock. Not a season has passed since 1871 without the addition either of buildings, lumber sheds, or improvements in labor-saving devices, to increase production, economize cost and secure the best mechanical results. The enterprise has proved remarkably successful, furnishing employment to a large number of people and contributing greatly to the material prosperity of the town. In 1885 S. M. Frost retired from the business, and F. H. Shaw, J. P. Holman, Philip Lothrop and William C. Burdett, employes of the company, became stockholders. In 1886 William B. Whitney retired, and George W. Foster, formerly of the firm of Foster Bros. & Kenney, entered the employ of the company and took an interest. A few months ago F. H. Shaw sold his interest, leaving the present management as follows; F. A. Whitney, Pres. and Treas.; William C. Burdett, Sec.; George W. Foster, traveling salesman; F. A. Whitney, J. P. Holman, P. Lothrop and G. W. Foster, directors. The company was never in a better condition to manufacture than at the present time, with one hundred and fifty employes, and shipping goods to all parts of the United States, South America and Australia.

The permanent nature of this business, the value of its products, the skill and intelligence required of the workmen, unite to make the manufacture of children's carriages, like piano making, a most desirable industry. For many years this business has been an important working factor in the prosperity of Leominster.

Of the founders of this industry, Mr. F. W. Whitney contributed for its success marked mechanical and inventive talent; but it was chiefly by the business foresight and energy of Mr. F. A. Whitney that the business passed its most critical point,



J. P. HOLMAN.



PHILIP LOTHROP.



F. W. WHITNEY.



WM. C. BURDETT.



GEORGE W. FOSTER.



and that the foundations were laid for future growth and permanent prosperity. Mr. Whitney, though a native of Westminster, has, for all his active manhood, been closely connected with the industry and religious life of Leominster. The buildings he has planned with so much taste and built so thoroughly will remain as a permanent legacy to the town. Mr. Whitney has always refused public office.

THE RICHARDSON CARRIAGE COMPANY. This firm, also, manufactures Children's Carriages. In October, 1886, the Company acquired by purchase the property known as the Union Comb Shop and soon after moved a part of their business from Boston to Leominster. Their factory was, at the time, very materially enlarged and fitted up in the most complete manner for the prosecution of the business.

The present season the company have made a second large addition to their works. This new building is itself a large and well-finished structure, and makes the factory, old and new, one of the most extensive in town. The Richardson Carriage Co. is a live, active firm; they employ many skilled workmen, and under the practical and energetic management of Mr. Jackson the business is increasing and prosperous.

A. A. TISDALE & Co. The business of this company was started in the spring of 1885. The factory is on Mount Pleasant. Reed goods, children's carriage bodies and all articles of this class are manufactured by the company. The members of the firm are A. A. and Wilbur Tisdale.

A. A. Tisdale, son of S. A. Tisdale, is a native of Leominster. He received his commercial education at Comer's College, Boston. For some years he worked for the Union Comb company, both at comb making and on piano cases, and was a member of the firm of S. A. Tisdale & Co., before starting the present enterprise.

Wilbur B. Tisdale, a son of Wm. B. Tisdale, is also a native of Leominster. He worked at the eye glass business for several years for Wetherbee & Tisdale, and also for the Whitney Carriage Co.

### RATTAN WORKS.

THE LEOMINSTER RATTAN WORKS. This is a recent addition to the valuable industries of the town, and is mentioned in this connection because the rattan forms so important a part of the material used in the manufacture of children's carriages. The business is conducted on the site where Lawrence and Miller manufactured tubs for so many years. The business consists of preparing from the rattan in its natural state the different kinds of stock used so extensively in making carriage bodies, chairs and a great variety of useful and ornamental articles now found in a multitude of homes in this and all countries.

The rattan, in its natural state, is a product of what are familiarly called the East Indies, especially the island of Borneo. It grows in a low, malarious country, and is cut by the natives, brought to the coast and exported to this and other countries. A new growth springs from the old stump and increases so rapidly as to extend several hundred feet in a single year. The stock in its native state is covered with a husk resembling that of Indian corn, which must be removed before the product is ready for the market. These reeds, cut to different lengths, are sold to the consumer by the pound. As the time required before the product can finally be turned into money is unusually long, a large capital is necessarily required for the business. The Leominster Rattan Works are under the management of Mr. F. S. Coolidge, native of Westminster, but for some years a citizen of Leominster, and for several years manager of the Boston Chair Manufacturing company.

Mr. Coolidge thoroughly understands the business. The works are being fitted with machinery as fast as the circumstances will permit, as many of the machines are complicated and must be built especially for the purpose.

At the present time the product of the factory is ten bales, or one million feet of cane per day. When the machinery is all in, it is expected that the annual capacity will be increased to thirteen hundred tons, and that the company will do a business of half a million dollars, employing seventy-five hands. It will well repay anyone to visit this factory and witness the process by which the rattan is prepared for the market.

### MACHINERY.

At present there are four firms engaged in the manufacture of machinery in Leominster: Gould & Cook, J. A. Stowell, John Mather and Austin A. Smith.

The business was commenced in this town by Thurston Richardson in 1850. He worked in a small shop in the rear of what, at the time, was Joslin & Adams' comb shop on Union street. Mr. Richardson was a very skilful mechanic and especially successful in his business. While in Boston, buying goods for the Union Comb company, he was accidentally exposed to the "small pox," of which disease he died, after a sickness of little more than a week.

The business was continued by A. F. Gates, in a shop on Central street, and then by Gould & Cook.

GOULD & COOK started business in 1884, in the shop of A. F. Gates, on Central street, and continued there until August 1st of the present year, when they moved to the shop of A. W. Williams, on Water street. These gentlemen are the inventors and owners of the Gem Pencil Sharpener, which is considered by teachers, who have most occasion to test an article of this kind, as the simplest and best in the market.

C. E. Gould was born in Chelmsford, in 1842, but has had his home in Leominster for many years. F. H. Cooke is a native of this town, born in 1852, and educated in the public schools. They are doing a successful business.

J. A. STOWELL, also engaged in this business, was born at Claremont, N. H., and, after receiving a common school education, entered a private school known as the Claremont Academy.

After leaving school he was book-keeper for J. Goodwin & Co., flour and grain dealers, and subsequently became a partner in the firms of A. Stowell & Co., millers and grain dealers, and Richardson & Co., lumber manufacturers, all of Claremont.

In 1870, selling out his interests in Claremont, he came to Leominster as a partner in the firm of Jacob & Stowell, groceries and drugs, but sold out in 1873, and was connected for one year with Waldo Whitney & Co., machinists and water wheel manufacturers.

In 1874 Mr. Stowell purchased the machine business of the firm then located on Mechanic street, and has continued the business ever since.

In 1886 he removed to Water street, and occupied the buildings of G. F. & A. G. Moore.

In addition to the usual jobbing business, the manufacture of water wheels, shafting, gearing, hangers and pulleys has been undertaken. The manufacture of wood working machinery has also received considerable attention.

Mr. Stowell is a member of the Library Committee.

JOHN MATHER is a native of Bolton, England. At the age of 14 he came to this country and learned the machinist's trade of P. C. Holmes & Co., Gardner, Maine. In Oct., 1866, he removed to Fitchburg and entered the employ of the Putnam



JOHN MATHER.



C. E. HUDSON.



C. E. BOULTON.



C. E. BOULTON.





Machine company. In 1877 he came to Leominster and, in partnership with Edward Newitt, carried on the machinery business. He was afterwards alone, and in July, 1886, with George W. Todd, under the firm name of Mather & Todd. They purchased the Whitney property, formerly occupied by J. A. Stowell. In April, 1888, Mr. Mather bought out his partner, and is now sole owner.

AUSTIN ABBOT SMITH was born in Leominster Feb. 26, 1845. His machine shop and residence are on Lindell avenue, West Leominster. The shop was built about twenty-four years ago. Mr. Smith carries on the business in his own interest, and is at present making rattan machinery. He has followed model making to some extent, and has also made button and comb machinery, dynamos, and does all kinds of repairing. He learned his trade at the machine shop of Thurston Richardson, now deceased.

### WOOLEN GOODS.

The woolen business was begun in Leominster as early as 1800; for in 1799 we are told that Nichols & Kendall built a small mill on the Nashua river for a woolen factory. This the next year they rented to John Taylor, an Englishman, who continued to manufacture woolen cloth on a small scale until 1810, when he enlarged his factory and increased his water power, continuing this business until 1828, when the property was sold to J. Kendall & Son, and by them converted into a paper mill. Some little work was done in other places in the way of carding wool and finishing cloth, but it is not necessary to mention this work here.

In 1850 Carter, Patch & Cowdrey built the dam and erected the first shop on Pond street. James H. Carter rented a part of this for a comb shop, and the remainder was used by Somers

& Botchford for the manufacture of horn buttons. In 1853 the same parties built another shop on the south side of the stream, and rented a part of it to J. C. Lane for the manufacture of piano cases. Another part of it was rented to John C. Gove, who made piano cases. Mr. Lane was succeeded by Allen & Jewett, manufacturers of pianos, and while this firm occupied the building it was burned. In 1864 Messrs. Carter, Patch & Cowdrey sold the privilege to Mr. John H. Lockey, and in 1865 Mr. Lockey sold it to S. S. Crocker, who built a brick four set woolen mill, and associated with himself Solon Perry and Frank T. Crocker for the purpose of manufacturing woolen goods and these gentlemen were succeeded in the same business by other firms, viz.: Joseph Burroughs, Salem Griggs, Cheney & Griggs and Robert Fitton until the property was purchased by E. M. Rockwell, November 8, 1876.

Mr. Rockwell was born in Winsted, Ct., March 27, 1845, and is a son of Henry E. Rockwell, who was well known in educational circles in this State, and also on account of his long service as official reporter of the U. S. Senate, and afterwards as corresponding secretary of the Smithsonian Institute at Washington. Edward M. Rockwell was educated in the High School at Millbury, Mass., and later under the personal instruction of his father, who was at this period the principal of the school. After leaving school he entered the office of a business firm in Millbury, and went from there to Boston to learn mercantile business in the employ of a Boston firm. While in Boston the urgent call of the government for volunteers was responded to by Mr. Rockwell, and he served the country in different capacities during the last nine months of the rebellion.

At the close of the war he entered the office of N. A. Lombard & Co. of Worcester, manufacturers of woolen machinery, remaining there five years, and for the next two years having

charge of the extensive business of the Cleveland Machine Works, Worcester, who also manufacture woolen machinery.

In 1872 he joined with James Phillips, jr., in forming the firm of Rockwell & Phillips, Fitchburg, for the purpose of manufacturing worsted coatings and suitings, continuing in this four years.

In 1876 he purchased the woolen mill on Pond street, built by Mr. Crocker and described in the above historical sketch, and commenced the manufacture of woolen cassimeres during the following year. In 1881 he enlarged this mill and added very largely to the complement of machinery, until it is a complete and well equipped nine set mill.

Mr. Rockwell was elected a member of the School Board in 1884, and was at that time chosen its secretary, and was chosen chairman in 1887.

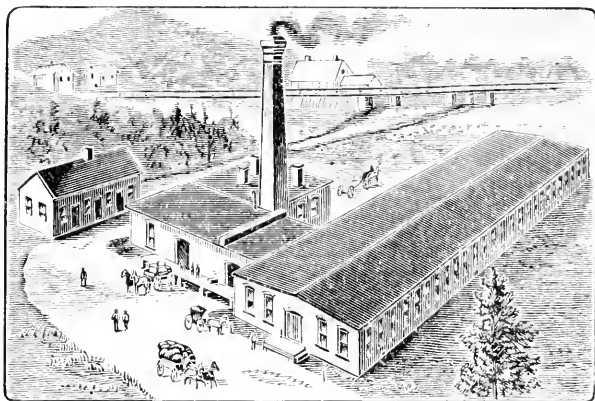
Mr. Rockwell married Miss M. J. Smith of Worcester in 1867, and has been blessed with six children, of whom four are now living.

**LEOMINSTER WORSTED COMPANY.** This business was started by William Rodger and E. M. Rockwell near the Water street crossing in May, 1886. The present mill plant was erected in September, 1887. The mill was completed and went into operation in January, 1888.

**WILLIAM RODGER** is a native of Scotland, where he was born Feb. 23, 1856. He has been for several years connected with the woolen business. In 1865, he came to this country and settled at Schaghticoke, N. Y. He was afterwards for seven years designer and superintendent of the Burlington Woolen Mills, Winooski, Vt. In 1884 he came to Leominster as superintendent for E. M. Rockwell, where he remained until 1886.

**WILLIAM H. CHASE** became interested in the business Sept. 1, 1887. He was born in North Weare, N. H., March 18, 1857.

After leaving school he engaged in the insurance business, and Jan. 1, 1880, he accepted the position of overseer in the weaving department of the Smith and Converse woolen mill in his native town. In 1882, he came to Leominster to take a similar position in the E. M. Rockwell mill remaining with Mr. Rock-



well until the establishment of the Leominster Worsted company.

### CHAMBER FURNITURE.

The business of manufacturing chamber furniture, as an industry in Leominster, is only a little past its majority. Before 1865, Mr. Pratt occupied a part of what is now the main building of the Reed Toy Co.'s Works, for the manufacture of chestnut and walnut chamber furniture. But the business was limited and did not become a permanent industry.

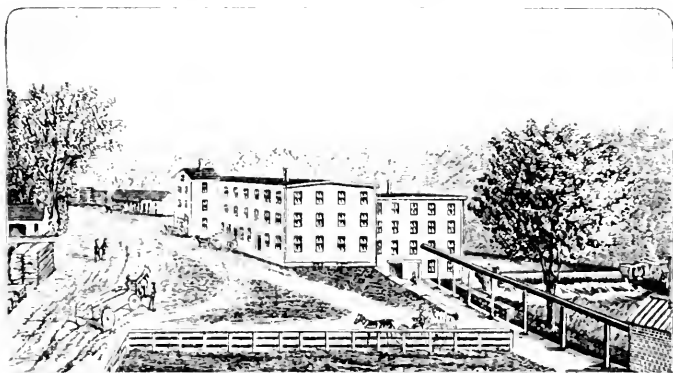
MERRIAM, HALL & Co. This business was established in the spring of 1864 by Samuel Merriam, Geo. Hall and S. C. Pickard. The site of the present factory was, at that time, marked by a dam, all that remained of an old paper mill.

The location is well adapted for its present purpose ; there is an excellent water power, and it is only a short distance from

the freight station of the Fitchburg R. R. The main building, built by the firm in 1864, is 100 feet by 40 feet. Two wings have since been added, 45 by 50 feet and 16 by 25 feet respectively. These buildings are three stories with basement. There is also a large attic, used for storage. The firm thus have ample room to accommodate their business and to do the work with the greatest economy.

The further relation of Mr. Merriam to this firm is stated in a sketch of his life, printed in another chapter.

The firm at present consists of Mr. Geo. Hall and his son,



Arthur H. Hall. Both these gentlemen have served their time in furniture making and are masters of the business. The work is strictly confined to the manufacture of chamber suits in ash, oak, and cherry. About ninety men find steady employment, and more than ten thousand suits are manufactured annually. This is a model establishment; the most perfect system prevails in every department, while the goods made are among the best on the market.

The firm have recently bought of Mrs. Moses Richardson four acres of land adjoining the Fitchburg railroad, put in a side track about 800 feet, and erected a store house 40 by 100

feet. This new enterprise adds materially to their business facilities.

Geo. Hall, the senior member of the firm, is one of Leominster's most respected citizens and best business men. He was born in Mason, N. H., Jan. 1, 1831, and in 1852 went to Nashua to learn the cabinet making. In 1858 he bought the business of the firm for which he worked and continued the same until he came to Leominster in 1864.

Mr. Hall has represented the town at the General Court, has been a member of the Water Board from its origin, and is a director of the Leominster National Bank and of the Safety Fund National Bank of Fitchburg.

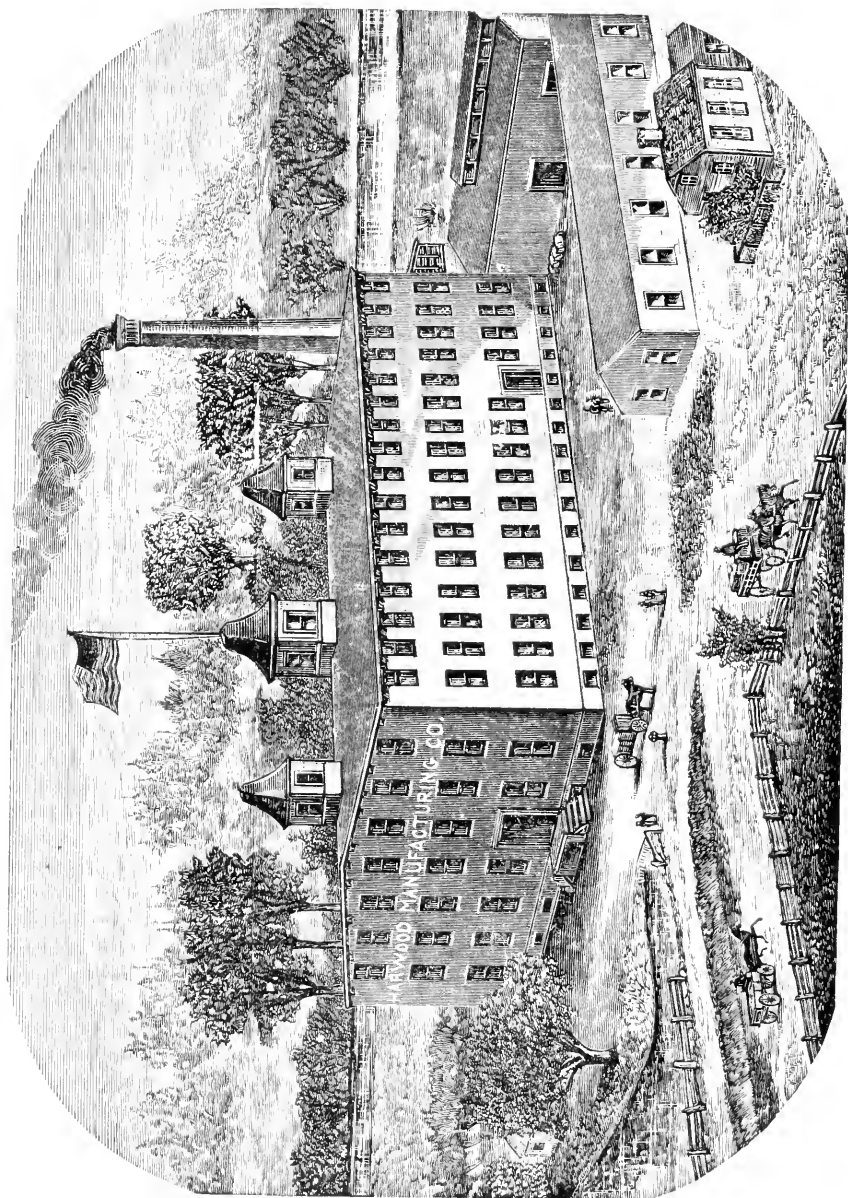
Arthur H. Hall, the junior member of the firm, was educated in the public schools, and after that received a thorough, practical training. He is an energetic and successful business man.

THE LEOMINSTER FURNITURE COMPANY. This business was established by Blodgett & Bishop in 1865. At first the manufacturing was done in the J. C. Lane building, but the business was removed in a short time to its present location. The factory proper, a three story and basement building, 50 by 80 feet, was erected by Blodgett & Bishop, who were the first to improve the water power on Monoosnock brook, below the factory of Lawrence and Miller. In 1871, the firm was changed to Bishop & Hogan. After the death of Mr. Bishop, the business was conducted under the firm name of Martin, Bates & Co., and in 1879 by A. J. Bates & Co.

In 1880 the company was incorporated as The Leominster Furniture Manufacturing Co., with the following officers: President, J. Whitman; Vice-President, F. L. Tolman; Treasurer, W. W. Vining; Secretary, A. J. Bates. Since then there has been considerable change in the membership of the cor-







poration. The following are the present officers : Pres., Jard Whitman ; Sec. and Treas., W. W. Vining. F. R. Tucker is travelling salesman for the company.

Besides the main building, the corporation own large store houses and lumber sheds, ample in size to accommodate the demands of the business. The mill is provided with water and steam power, and the number of hands engaged is about fifty. The product is pine, ash and chestnut furniture of a high grade.

### THE HARWOOD MANUFACTURING CO.

A business history of the site now occupied by the works of this company will be found in the sketch of Major Haws. Joseph Cozzens, who bought the property of Mr. Haws, sold to Walter Wright, who carried on business there for some years, but disposed of the mill to a Mr. Rolf. He did little more than pass the property over to its present owners, J. A. Harwood of Littleton and Nahum Harwood of Leominster. The business was started in 1868 with the manufacture of leather board. In time, the making of boot and shoe stiffenings and chair seats was added ; and the capacity of the factory was increased, by new machinery and buildings from one to three tons per day.

In 1883, the entire factory was burned ; but the ruins had hardly time to cool, before men were at work clearing the ground for a new and larger building. This was completed and the machinery started Jan. 1, 1884. The main building is 66 by 107 feet, three stories and basement. This building is most thoroughly constructed and finished in all its parts and appliances, and provides fully for the comfort of the workmen. Adjoining the main building is the stock house and cutter room, 35 by 70 feet ; the boiler, engine and bleaching room, 40 by 80 feet ; and the store house 30 by 90 feet. The works are run by combined water and steam power, furnished by three water

wheels and a Putman engine of large capacity. About sixty men are employed, and the works are run twenty-four hours each working day.

This business has been prosperous from the first. It is conducted with energy and according to the best business methods, requires many skilled workmen, and has contributed liberally to the prosperity of the town.

Nahum Harwood, a son of Col. Nahum Harwood, of Littleton, was born Sept. 4, 1833, at the old Harwood homestead. He received both a common school and academic education and learned civil engineering during a service of three years with T. & J. Doane, of Boston. To this profession he devoted several years in Massachusetts, Maine, and at Omaha, Nebraska. Mr. Harwood's first business enterprise was a flour mill at Harvard, Mass. This property was sold and a company formed for the purpose of manufacturing "leather board." Of this company Mr. Harwood was treasurer and active manager until 1868, when he formed the business relations above described.

Mr. Harwood is a director of the Leominster National Bank, of the Leominster Gas Light Co., and Vice President of the Eastern Associates, a Life Insurance Co. of Boston. He has, also, large business interests in California, where he has of late spent considerable time. Mr. Harwood has served the town on the board of selectmen. He was named as the Democratic candidate for representative in 1881; three times the same party named him for State Senator; he represented his district in 1876 at the St. Louis Convention, and was the party candidate for Presidential Elector in 1880. It is to the credit of Mr. Harwood, that in all these contests his vote much exceeded that of his ticket and nothing to his discredit that he was not elected in a district so strongly Republican.

In 1858, Mr. Harwood married Miss Sarah J. Mulliken of





Charlestown. They have two daughters, the younger is the wife of Mr. W. H. Chase of the Leominster Worsted Co.

AUGUSTUS L. WHITNEY, foreman of the Harwood Works, has been in the employ of the Company for nine years. He was born in Harvard, June 18, 1845, is a machinist by trade, and was at one time employed in the establishment of L. W. Pond, of Worcester. He removed to Fitchburg, and was asst. foreman in the machine works of J. Q. Wright. For seven years previous to 1879, he made watch tools in the Waltham Watch factory.

### MUSICAL MERCHANDISE.

A. W. COLBURN & CO. In 1823 Charles and Jonas Colburn established the comb business at the house of the latter. When the business was still young, it was moved to the site now occupied by the factory of A. W. Colburn & Co.

In 1824 Jonas Colburn bought the interest of his brother, and continued alone until 1836. The business was then Colburn & Nichols for one year, and Jonas Colburn again, till 1845. From this time on, the history is given in the sketch of George F. Colburn, town officers. Mr. Jonas Colburn died in 1873. He was for fifty years a successful comb manufacturer, and to the end of life an honored and respected citizen of the town.

The business of the present firm, the manufacture of piano and organ sharps, component parts of other musical instruments, etc., was commenced in Northboro' by H. Brooks & Co. In the factory of this company, A. W. Colburn learned the business. From 1880 to 1885 he was a member of the firm, the name being Brooks & Colburn. In 1885, Mr. Brooks sold his interest to Geo. F. Colburn, when the present company was organized and the business moved to Leominster in Nov., 1886. The factory was burned in March, 1887; but Mr. Colburn at once began the erection of a larger and more convenient build-

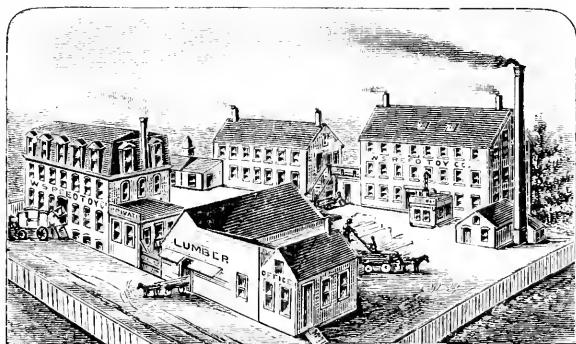
ing, which was completed and occupied in May, 1888. The business gives employment to 28 hands, and is prosperous under the present efficient management.

A. W. Colburn is a native of Leominster. He was educated in the public schools and at a commercial college in Boston. His business history is included in what is already given. In 1880 he married Helen Brooks, of Northboro'.

A sketch of Mr. Geo. F. Colburn is given with the other town officers.

### CHILDREN'S TOYS.

THE W. S. REED TOY COMPANY. For several years the manufacture of toys has been a prominent and important industry in Leominster. The business was established by the



senior member of the present company, Mr. W. S. Reed, in 1874. In that year the New England Toy company began the manufacture of children's blocks. This company consisted of F. A. Whitney, W. S. Reed and Seymour Lyman, Mr. Lyman acting as president and manager. After about a year and a half, this business was discontinued, and in July, 1876, Mr. Reed started alone in the general business of making toys. At first he manufactured several novelties of his own invention, and soon built up a large and prosperous business. In 1879



W.M. S. R. F.



CHARLES D. R. F.





he purchased the Lane & Prescott shop on Summer street, and the following year, still further increased the capacity of his factory by building the present brick factory, used by the company. The business was conducted by Mr. Reed alone until 1881, when, in order to facilitate the work, a stock company was organized with the above name, W. S. Reed president, and C. E. Dresser treasurer.

This company manufactures toys, novelties and games of every description, as well as many articles of more permanent utility. Many of the goods of this firm have an extensive sale, both at home and abroad.

Messrs. Reed & Dresser, also, compose the United States Mailing Case company, which is of more recent origin. They are the sole agents and manufacturers of the only patent liquid mailing case approved by the Postmaster General. The manufacture of these goods was begun in Sept., 1886. The case is made of wood, lined with cork, and has a tight fitting screw lid with rubber cushion, and accommodates a glass bottle, in which the liquid to be transmitted is placed. The cases are made in all sizes to meet the demands of consumers. This trade is likely to continue, as it is now, an important industry. The company is fully equipped for their business in all its departments, and has a large domestic and foreign trade. The manufacturing plant consists of the buildings already named, is equipped with machinery especially designed for the ends, and supplied with ample power. This corporation is among the active, energetic and prosperous business concerns of Leominster.

The president of the company, Mr. W. S. Reed, was born in Sterling, July 7, 1846. When he came to Leominster he was first in the employ of F. A. Whitney's Carriage company for three years, and then began business as above stated.

C. E. Dresser was born Oct. 22, 1854, in Stockbridge, Mass., but received his education in Lee and graduated from the High School of that place. After learning the drug business in his native town, Mr. Dresser came to Leominster in 1875 and bought of A. A. Burdett of Clinton the drug store in Fosters' block. The various changes in the drug business from 1875 to 1881 left Mr. Dresser in 1880-81 the oldest druggist in town.

In 1881 Mr. Dresser sold his store to E. E. Burdett, who had been in his employ for the previous four years, and together with W. S. Reed, formed the corporation known as the W. S. Reed Toy Company, and has since given his time to the varied interests of that concern.

The connection of Mr. Dresser with the Leominster Shirt company will be stated under that head.

### THE MANUFACTURE OF WHITE SHIRTS.

This business is a late comer in Leominster, but it has already attained most ample proportions and promises to make the name of the town familiar wherever good shirts are in demand.

In Sept., 1880, G. F. Morse & Co. began to prepare one of the rooms in their block on Water street for the manufacture of white shirts, a business at the time foreign to the general thought and knowledge of Leominster. They went so far as to purchase a few machines and a small amount of cotton. Before the work of manufacturing was actually begun, however, it was sold to C. E. Dresser and D. C. Nickerson. Soon after, F. A. Whitney became a member of the firm. Mr. Geo. A. Gane, of Fitchburg, who, at the time, was favorably known as a skilful maker of custom shirts, was invited to take charge of the new enterprise. This was the origin of the business of the

LEOMINSTER SHIRT COMPANY. The original owners con



E. A. BUFFINTON.



tinued the business until May, 1881, when it was sold to E. A. Buffinton of Detroit. Mr. Buffinton, before he came to Leominster, had been superintendent of a large shoe factory in Detroit, and knew nothing whatever of the shirt business. But he possessed business ability and energy, which in this case sufficed until the knowledge could be acquired. He began with twenty machines and occupied only one half the second floor in Morse's brick block on Water street. The business increased under his energetic management, and the second year he added a laundry, and soon occupied two floors in this building and extended his works to take in one floor of the next block. Here Mr. Buffinton remained five years, when he was forced to move, as the possible room would not accommodate his business.

In this year, 1886, Mr. A. W. Williams built a large and convenient factory for the company, which, with an addition since made, they now occupy.

In 1883, Mr. Charles Nickerson became interested in the business, but in less than a year was compelled to sell his interest and move to California for his health.

In 1884, Mr. Buffinton made arrangements with Ellen C. Johnson, Supt. of the Women's Reformatory Prison at Sherborn, to manufacture shirts for them. This contract has been continued until the present time.

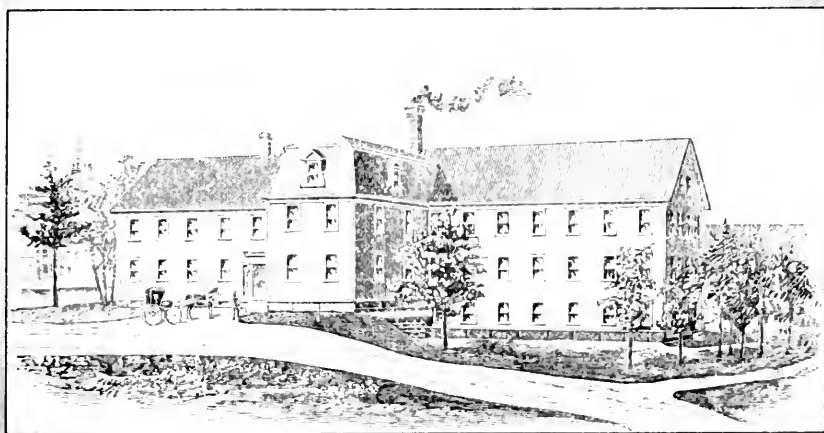
In 1886, to accommodate the steadily increasing trade, Mr. Buffinton located a branch factory in Provincetown, Mass., where the company are operating what is known as the Puritan Shirt Co.

In April, 1886, Mr. C. C. Foster became associated with Mr. Buffinton in this business, and in 1887 they began to sell the goods made by the Bay State Shirt company, as stated in the account which follows. Mr. Buffinton is actively interested in political matters, was an alternate delegate to the

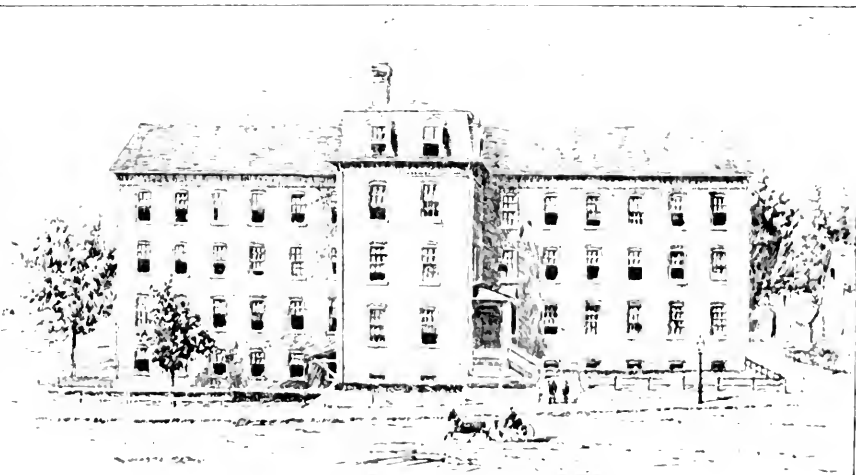
convention which nominated Gen. Harrison, and is now a member of the Republican State Central Committee.

Charles C. Foster was born at Norway, Maine, Dec. 7, 1846. At the age of 20, he began teaching in the public schools of Chicopee, Mass., and continued the same at two different times for about 12 years. In the meantime he was engaged with his brother in the boot and shoe business in Leominster for about four years, from 1873 to 1877. In 1882 he engaged in the grocery business with his brother and Clarence Kenney, under the firm name of Foster Bros. & Kenney. Retiring from business in the latter part of 1885, he became connected with the Leominster Shirt company, as already stated. Mr. Foster is a member of both Library and School Committee.

THE WACHUSETT SHIRT COMPANY originated about a year later. After Mr. Gane left the employ of Mr. E. A. Buffinton he began the manufacture of shirts on his own account in a small room in Paton's Block, over the People's Market, as it is now called. At that time he had only eight machines running, but the present name was used from the start. This was in Jan, 1882. In July of the same year, Mr. F. A. Whitney took part in the business, which was removed to the shop of W. D. Earl & Co., and later to the upper story of the building belonging to the Whitney Carriage Co., which stands just over the bridge to the left on Water street. The business soon extended to the lower floor, which was used as a cutting room. In a brief time still more room was demanded for convenience and profit, and Mr. Whitney made an addition, 64 feet long and 35 wide, and three stories high. The changes and addition to the buildings were planned by Mr. Whitney himself, and the rooms were dedicated Dec. 5, 1885. The main building is now 128 feet long and 35 feet wide; the front projection is 30 x 20 feet. The rooms are planned with the greatest care for the



WACHUSETT SHIRT CO.'S FACTORY NO. 1.



WACHUSETT SHIRT CO.'S FACTORY NO. 2.

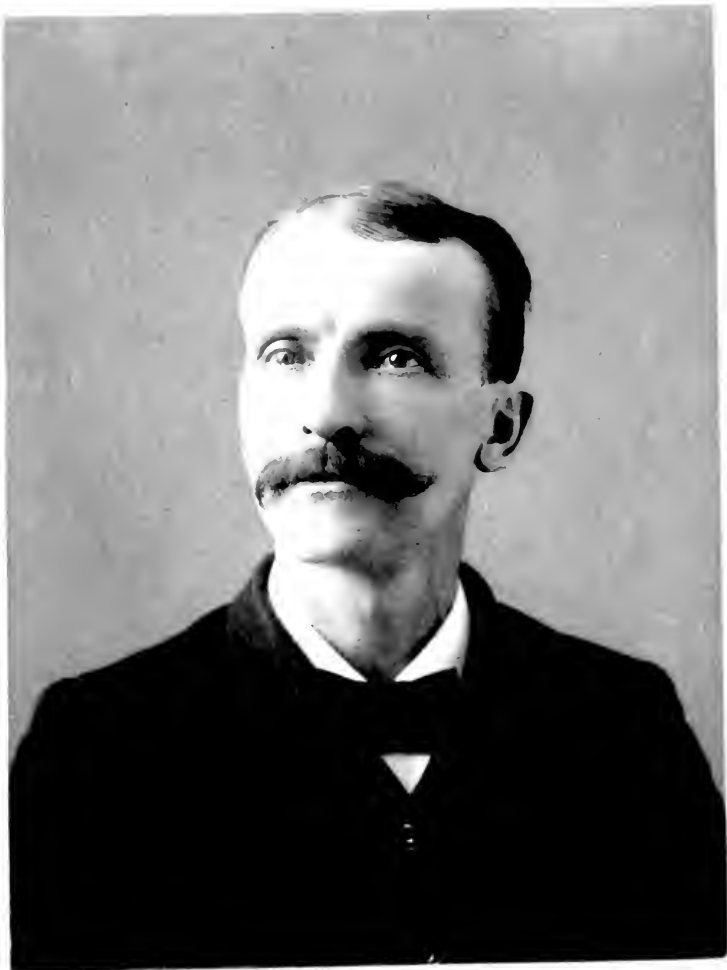


comfort of the employes, and every convenience for ease and rapidity in manufacturing the goods intended.

In June, 1886, Mr. Whitney determined to build a new factory for the still further increase and accommodation of the business. It is of brick, finely finished and furnished throughout. The building is four stories high in the main part and 136 feet long by 35 feet wide. The engine and boiler house is in the rear of this part and is 26 feet by 40; it contains one of the finest engines in town. In this building the rooms face the South, are light, airy and pleasant. Nothing is lacking, which could make work healthy and comfortable. The upper floor is used for storing goods. The principal building has a front projection, 24 by 33 feet. Here on the first floor is the business and a private office for consultation. On the same floor is a room fitted up for use in case any of the operatives should be sick or meet with an accident. In addition, there are over the office, rooms for folding, packing, etc.

The means for extinguishing fire and the sanitary arrangements are as perfect as they could possibly be made. In deed, whatever Mr. Whitney undertakes, he may be trusted to finish in the most complete and thorough manner. Every room in these buildings speaks of comfort and convenience. It would be hard to find a Company anywhere, more completely provided with all the facilities for doing a large and prosperous business. George A. Gane is the manager of this company.

Mr. Gane was born in Quebec, but the family moved to Island Pond, Vt., when he was about 5 years old. He was therefore educated in the Public Schools of that State, and made his home there until 1869, when he moved to Waltham, Mass. In Waltham Mr. Gane was for a time employed as book-keeper and later was connected with the dry and fancy goods business; but for the last part of the time he was en-



GEORGE A. GANE.



gaged in making custom shirts. This business he moved to Fitchburg in the autumn of 1877 and was prosecuting the same with much skill and energy when he was invited to Leominster as stated above. Mr. Gane is an energetic and successful manager, has a thorough knowledge of the business, and is an excellent citizen.

THE BAY STATE SHIRT COMPANY was organized in Oct. 1885, by Mr. A. G. Morse of Leominster, and George H. Priest of Sterling. It was in part a business removed to Leominster from Oakdale, Mass. After a brief time Mr. Priest withdrew from the Company. Mr. A. G. Morse, a sketch of whose life is found in the history of the Morse family, has been the treasurer and manager of the company from the start. This business has been twice enlarged. The goods are all sold by the Leominster Shirt Company.

#### LUMBER, DOORS, SASH AND BLINDS.

TENNEY & KENNEY. - The lumber business of Stratton Brothers passed into the hands of Mr. Joseph G. Tenney, who in 1874 associated with himself Capt. Clesson Kenney, under the firm name of Tenney & Kenney. Mr. Tenney has not given personal attention to the business since 1879. The firm do an extensive business in furnishing house frames, and in manufacturing all miscellaneous material used in building.

A sketch of Mr. Tenney has already been given.

Capt. Clesson Kenney was born in Leominster May 31, 1839, and was educated in the public schools and graduated from the high school. He enlisted as a private in Company D, M. V. M., Sept. 2, 1862, and, while in the field, was promoted to second sergeant, Dec. 1, 1862, and to second lieutenant June 15, 1863. Mr. Kenney was chosen captain of Co. K, M. V. M., in 1873, and served the state in that capacity four years. Mr.

Kenney has been a trustee of the Leominster Savings Bank for the past four years.

### APPLE PARERS.

This business has no closer connection with the "Apple Parer" business of Lockey & Howland already named, than this : Mr. F. W. Hudson who started the present concern, was, at one time, an employe of that firm. But when Mr. Hudson started he did so under his own patents. He began in Fitchburg but soon moved to Leominster into the building now owned by John Mather. From there the business went to the basement of the old Lockey Piano Shop ; then to a building near the tub shop of Miller & Lawrence ; from there to a shop near the Water Street bridge, and which is now in use by Whitney & Co., as a box shop. When that shop was moved, Mr. Hudson moved to the present factory, which is admirably suited to the needs of the business, giving ample room for manufacturing, storing and shipping the goods.

C. E. HUDSON now carries on this business, having bought it of his father some years since. The business is healthy and prosperous ; the management careful and energetic. The product of the factory is about fifty thousand machines annually. Mr. Hudson was born in Leominster, June 12, 1856. He was engaged in the button business for three years in Jersey City, when he returned to Leominster and engaged in business with his father. Mr. F. W. Hudson retired from the firm in 1881, and, with the exception of one year, when E. C. Williams had an interest, Mr. Hudson has been sole proprietor.

### PAPER BOX MANUFACTURING.

This business is conducted by three firms, MRS. E. F. DODGE, C. P. GREEN, and G. L. CHASE. This industry is closely connected with comb making, and at different times as the needs of the trade demand, employs a large number of hands. Every

variety of paper box is made, and in these the different kinds of goods are elegantly presented in market.

WHITNEY & Co. have lately established a new enterprise in this line. With machinery specially made for the purpose they make every style and description of folding paper box. These boxes are adapted to a great variety of purposes, and a visit to the factory would be well worth the time.

### ROLLER DESKS.

UNION DESK COMPANY.—This very desirable industry was brought to Leominster from Boston in March, 1887. At that time the company purchased the Symonds Pavilion on Monument square, at once made such changes in the building as the business demanded and put in the required machinery. The members of the firm are A. B. and A. F. Curtis and William F. Smith. Mr. Smith is a native of Leominster. The business of the company is confined to making roller desks and library tables of different kinds. The work done at this factory is excellent, and under the present management the business is likely to increase, both in amount and importance.

### ENAMEL WORKS.

SUN ENAMEL WORKS. Aldrich Cook, proprietor. This interesting business includes every description of enamelled goods, such as enamelled jewelry, jet and shell goods, organ stops, knobs, jewelry ornaments, handles and rubber stamps, truss pads, pen holders, druggists' glass ware supplies, wood buttons, whip sockets and novelties of every description. All kinds of japanning is done at this factory also, and the goods are sent to all parts of the country. The number of hands employed varies with the demands of the market. Mr. Cook gives personal attention to the work, and the goods rank high as to design and finish.

A sketch of Mr. Cook may be found among the past commanders of Post 53, G. A. R.

### LEATHER TRUNK HANDLES.

This industry was first established in Boston, Jan. 1, 1884, by Henry A. Stone, who transferred the business to South Framingham Jan. 1, 1886, and in March, 1886, sold to George E. Norris. In August, 1886, the business was bought by Mr. C. W. Stratton and removed to its present location in Leominster. Mr. Stratton was for several years a travelling salesman, and was also a mechanic. He was born October 8, 1847 in Leominster and has resided here most of the time since.

### WILCOX PEN.

THE WILCOX FOUNTAIN PEN CO. This pen, which was invented and patented by J. T. Wilcox, promises to meet a demand for a low-priced and reliable fountain pen. A. W. Williams is president and J. T. Wilcox secretary and treasurer of the company. The company expect to have the goods ready for market in a few weeks. The manufacturing will be done in a part of A. W. Williams' comb shop.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

LEOMINSTER GAS LIGHT CO. This company was organized in 1873, and began to furnish gas Oct. 1 of the same year. Until 1879 the gas was made from coal and the works were under the direction of Merrick Howe as superintendent, but in that year the company changed their machinery so as to make gas from crude petroleum by the Hanlon process. The works were then leased to H. M. Lane, who has continued to manage the business until the present time. The price of gas has lately been materially reduced. The gas furnished is of excellent quality, full 28 candle power. The capital stock was at first \$30,000, but in 1877 this was increased to \$50,000, upon which

the company at the present time are paying an annual dividend of five per centum. The present officers are : C. L. Joslin, president ; M. Howe, treasurer ; H. M. Lane, secretary ; C. L. Joslin Geo. F. Morse, and H. M. Lane, directors.

LEOMINSTER ELECTRIC LIGHT CO. This company was organized last June. The directors are : A. L. Burditt, E. A. Buffinton, E. F. Blodgett, Dr. C. A. Wheeler, and J. S. Anthony ; E. A. Buffinton, pres., and A. L. Burditt, Sec. Of these directors Mr. J. S. Anthony is of the firm of Valpey & Anthony who were a part of the syndicate who purchased the Franchise for Lynn of the first local Electric Lighting Plant of the now well known Thompson & Houston System, and were among the few who had the pluck to buy up the entire property of the parent company, then lying practically dormant at New Britain, Conn. They are both still interested in this famous company which has become the largest as well as the best and most prominent Electric Lighting Company in the world. They are also connected with the Leominster Electric Railway Company, now being pushed forward in this town. Mr. Anthony being one of the directors. They have also just added an Electric Light Plant of one hundred and fifty lights to their own factory here, and are both thorough believers in the possibilities of Electricity, and all that is in any way progressive. The company is alive and active and will, no doubt, soon furnish Leominster with Electric Lights. They have bought land of Valpey & Anthony and are now at work on the necessary buildings. Associated with the Electric Light Company, so far as to depend on it for power, is the Leominster Street Railway Co. This company, to the stock of which many leading business men and citizens have subscribed, propose to open a street Railway through some of the principal streets of the town.

Some other industries should be mentioned in this chapter.



although they do not come fully under the head of manufacturing.

N. C. Boutelle, who was a member of the firm of Merriam, Hall & Co., from 1867 to 1879, has just built a large furnishing shop to accommodate the wholesale and retail trade of his Boston store.

Wm. P. Hoffnagle is proprietor of the Leominster Steam Laundry in C. H. Colburn's block.

C. W. Durant is a manufacturer as well as dealer in carriages. He, also, carries on a general business as a wheelwright and blacksmith. The other blacksmiths, Charles Welcome, Samuel Arnold, Haley & Lane and C. M. Gould, at the center, and L. Archibald at North Leominster, are doing more or less manufacturing in the line of their trade. Carlos Shepard does work in carriage making in a shop off Mechanic street. Albert LaPointe carries on the wheelwright, carriage making and repairing business in a shop in Mechanics' Lane. O. H. McKenney works at upholstering and is also a harness maker, J. W. Winch is classed as a harness maker and makes and repairs these goods. Waldo Whitney still manufactures the "Turbine Water Wheel" but the work is done out of town. Leonard E. Osborn is a manufacturer of brick. His brickyard is on Elm street, opposite Birch, with residence adjoining.

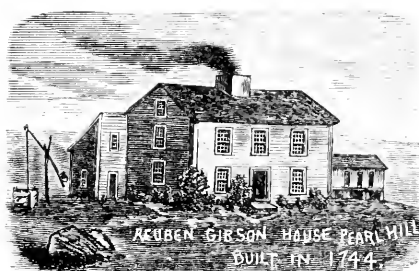
The business prospects of Leominster are excellent. The variety and nature of her industries are such as to promise constant employment for her citizens, while the natural beauty of the place, its well kept condition, its social, educational and religious advantages make it most a desirable place for a home.

It may not be improper to add that the pictures of several gentlemen whose business is described in this chapter, are found in other parts of this book. Those of Mr. Rockwell and Mr. Foster are with the School Committee, that of Mr. G. F. Colburn with the town officers. Mr. Geo. Hall, who should

have been mentioned as a trustee of the Leominster Savings Bank, and not a director of the National Bank, is with the trustees of that institution.

In this chapter all statements touching the amount of the business of any firm, are made on the authority of some member of that firm.

## CHAPTER XIII.



REV. Francis Gardner, the second minister of the First Congregational Church in Leominster, was a son of Rev. John Gardner, of Stowe, Mass., who was a descendent of Richard Gardner, who came from England and settled in Woburn, in 1642. Rev. Francis Gardner married Sarah, daughter of John Gibson, of Lunenburg. The family of Gibson are mentioned in the history of Worcester County, page 446, Vol. 1, among the early settlers of Fitchburg, on Pearl Hill, when the Indians were in that vicinity. Stephen Shepley, Esq., says in a paper which was carefully written by him on the subject: "On the southwesterly slope of the hill, the Gibsons lived, good fighting men, famous for their great strength and courage. The house of Isaac Gibson was fortified, and called Fort Gibson. It is said that the Indians, after carefully watching these hardy, athletic men, did not dare to attack them."

The mother of Sarah Gibson was Elizabeth, daughter of Judge Hartwell of Lunenburg. In a genealogy of the Hartwell family, lately published, he is mentioned on page 48;





D. W. SALISBURY.

"Edward Hartwell, born 1689, died 1785; soldier in 1707-8; Major in 1745, Judge of Common Pleas, 1750-62, Representative in the General Court until past 80 years of age; member of Committees of Safety in 1773-6. Judge Hartwell was a man of gigantic size and strength, a strong mind, great force of character, especially fitted for a leader in the troublous times of the new settlement, altogether he was one of the most conspicuous persons of the region and time in which he lived."

Rev. Francis Gardner had a large family of children, several of whom lived in Leominster and are buried in the old burying ground of the town. His eldest son, John Gardner, passed his life in Leominster, dying at the age of 88; his eldest son, John, went into business in Boston, was highly esteemed and filled with great ability an important financial office in a large manufacturing corporation. He left no sons. John Gardner's second son, Francis, was a merchant in Boston, resided in Roxbury, and had three sons, the only descendants of Rev. Francis Gardner, who bear his name.

The other son of Rev. Francis Gardner, named Francis, was a prominent lawyer in Walpole, N. H., and was sent to Congress from there in 1807-8; he afterwards removed to Boston and died in 1835. This son, also named Francis, was for many years principal of the Boston Latin School and a very distinguished classical scholar. He died unmarried.

Nancy, the youngest daughter of Rev. Francis Gardner, married Samuel Salisbury, an old time Boston merchant, and two of her children, Daniel Waldo and Rebecca Salisbury, are the only descendants of Rev. Francis Gardner, who reside in Leominster at this time. They live on the site of the old parsonage, which, together with the farm which belonged to it, came into the possession of the Salisbury family. Mr. Salisbury has since added to the original farm, purchases in various parts of Leominster, which make it nearly 400 acres.

WARD M. CORTON was a lineal descendant of John Cotton, the learned Puritan minister, and was born in Boylston, March 11, 1804. He had been in business but a short time in Lancaster, Mass., when he came to Leominster in 1829, and here was engaged for many years in the manufacture of comb machinery and tools. He was deacon and treasurer in the First Congregational Society for more than thirty years, and secretary of the Northeast District Temperance Union for twenty-five years, which office he held at the time of his death. He was at one time captain of the famous old artillery company belonging to this town. He died May 22, 1875, aged 71 years.

LUKE LINCOLN was a son of William Lincoln, and a native of Leominster. He was a harness maker by trade, and worked for some time with a Mr. Gay, of the firm of Lincoln & Gay, in a building which stood between the present Allen's block and Bosworth & Brush's store. He afterwards purchased a residence on Main street, where, for several years he continued in the harness business. Later on he moved on a farm, where he spent the rest of his days. Mr. Lincoln served the town in places of responsibility and trust, holding the office of Town Clerk from Dec. 16, 1837, until March 3, 1845. He died Aug. 22, 1870, aged 69 years, 6 months and 10 days.

MAJOR SENECA COLBURN was, in his younger days, deeply interested in military and other public affairs, having been captain of the Old Artillery company for many years, and afterward receiving a major's commission. He several times served the town on its Board of Selectmen, and was among the active pioneers in the comb industry, carrying on business in what is known as the W. D. Somers' place on Central street. He married, for his first wife, Miss Sally Lincoln, sister of the venerable Timothy Lincoln, by whom he leaves four daughters, Mrs. Thomas Tenney, Mrs. Luke Tenney, Mrs. Joseph P. Lockey



CHARLES H. SMITH



GEORGE M. JOHNSON



JOHN W. SMITH



J. M. F. SMITH



A. L. H. SMITH



A. L. H. SMITH



J. M. F. SMITH



J. M. F. SMITH



J. M. F. SMITH





of the first machinery used there for paper making. Removing to Newton, Mass., he, for several years held a similar situation in the paper mills there.

Mr. Kinsman afterwards engaged in civil engineering, and assisted in laying out the Boston & Lowell railroad. He remained in this business until his health failed, when he returned to Fitchburg, and remained a few years. He then removed to North Leominster, where he spent the remainder of his life, acquiring a considerable amount of land, which he cultivated; he also engaged in carpentering to some extent. He died at his home in North Leominster Jan. 22, 1884.

Mr. Kinsman was a quiet, unassuming man and persevering in his business affairs, was much interested in the welfare of the church and community and much attached to his home. He was twice married—first to Mary F., daughter of Capt. David Allen; their children were George, who died, and Louise, who married A. H. Lawrence. His second wife was Helen D., also a daughter of Capt. Allen; their children were Frank E., now an electrician in New York city, and Arthur M., who chose civil engineering as a business, and is now engaged in division engineering on railroads in Illinois.

JACOB PUFFER was born in Ashby, Mass. He came to Leominster at an early age and served an apprenticeship with Bezaleel Gibson, and afterwards went into business at the old tavern stand, on the corner of Exchange and West Sts. Later on, he gave up manufacturing combs and went into the wholesale peddling business. Subsequently, he went to Boston, and was salesman for different firms in that city. The later years of his life he spent in Leominster, and with his son Charles, carried on business under the firm name of J. Puffer & Co., horn dealers. Mr. Puffer was a staunch temperance man and an honest advocate of the anti-slavery cause. He died April 16, 1880, aged 78.

BARTIMUS TENNEY, the second son of Major Joseph Tenney, was born in Leominster Sept. 8, 1802, and died July 5, 1853. He was a shoemaker by trade and spent the whole of his life in North Leominster. He married Thirza Tyler, and their only surviving daughter, Thirza A., resides at the old homestead in North Leominster.

BARNEY S. PHELPS was born in Milton, Mass., March 28, 1819. At an early age he commenced the manufacture of lumber in Lancaster. He also engaged in the business of making marbled paper for bookbinders' use at the same time. In 1873 he came to Leominster, where he continued in the lumber business until the time of his death, November 4, 1880. Mr. Phelps served his native town in the office of Selectman, and was a prominent business man both in that town and Leominster.

PORTER M. KIMBALL was a native of Mt. Vernon, N. H., came to Leominster from Fitchburg when he was a boy, and engaged in the business of keeping a country store. This business he continued for some time, until he began the manufacture of combs in company with F. P. Shumway, in the building near the bridge, on Mechanic street, where Porter & Tenney are now located. The firm afterwards manufactured agricultural implements, building and occupying what was known as the "Fork Factory." This was the last business in which Mr. Kimball engaged. He was but thirty-two years of age at the time of his death, which occurred June 14, 1866. Mr. Kimball was a young man of great promise, respected and esteemed by a large circle of friends. His wife, who was the daughter of Dea. Wm. Burrage, died about three years before her husband, leaving one child, an infant son, who survived her but a short time.

DR. DANIEL FARRAR, son of Daniel W. and Betsey Farrar, of

Troy, N. H., was born in that town May 29, 1836. After acquiring a very good academic education, he turned his attention to the study of medicine. He prosecuted his medical studies systematically and thoroughly, and graduated from the Harvard Medical College in the spring of 1862. While he was careful to fit himself for general practice he had a special love for surgery, and in order to perfect himself in this branch, spent the summer of 1861 with the late J. Mason Warren, of Boston, to get the benefit of instruction from that distinguished surgeon. Soon after graduating, Dr. Farrar was appointed assistant surgeon to one of the N. H. regiments. Returning, he practiced his profession in his native town. In the spring of 1866 he removed to Leominster, where he soon established an honorable reputation and gained an extensive practice. His death occurred June 3, 1875.

HENRY STEARNS was a native of Leominster. He pursued various occupations, at one time being engaged in the coal business; but for the last twenty years of his life he was in the heavy jobbing and teaming business. His death, which occurred Jan. 14, 1882, was the result of an accident. He was thrown from a carriage and sustained fracture of a thigh. Recovery from this injury, however, seemed probable, when heart disease supervened, from which the patient died. Few men would have been more generally missed than Mr. Stearns. He was active and stirring, and things had to move when he was round, and if anyone wanted a job of moving done or any kind of work that required skill and judgement, there was no man in town who could engineer it better than he.

ALBERT LAMB, a native of Maine, was born in Oct., 1808, and died August 7th, 1885. When two years of age his parents moved to Hubbardston, Mass., where he lived with his father until he was 21 years of age, working in a saw mill nearly all the

time. After working at Concord, Mass., one year, he came to Leominster and engaged in the mill business with his brother, Carter Lamb. For a number of years they owned the mill property known as the Stratton Mills, occupied by Tenney & Kenney. He also owned the estate on West street, where S. S. Crocker now lives, and afterwards bought and occupied the homestead on Main street, and so attached to this home did he become that he promptly refused all offers to sell. It will be remembered that Mr. Lamb was for many years a great sufferer from rheumatism, but was, in spite of it an active, hard working man, and is missed by many in town, particularly the older citizens.

COL. HERVEY D. LOOK was born in Conway, Mass., Sept. 7, 1812. He was for several years engaged with his two brothers, Joseph A. and Dwight B., in the manufacture of horn combs in that town, and, after coming to Leominster, was in the same business together with them and William Tilton, in the firm of Look, Tilton & Co.

After about a year, Col. Look withdrew from the firm and was associated with his son Charles E., and in business with other parties.

At the time of his death, which occurred Sept. 8, 1879, he was a member of the firm of H. D. Look & Co., comb manufacturers. He went to New York to transact business for the firm, and while there, stopping at a hotel, was stricken with paralysis. He recovered sufficiently to allow of his being brought home, but did not rally from the shock.

Col. Look was married to Althana Munson, of Whately. They have one son, Charles E., already referred to, who married Margaret Stilphen; and one daughter, Nellie S., the wife of Rev. Horace Parker, of Lunenburg.

JOSEPH A. LOOK, brother of Col. H. D. and Dwight B.



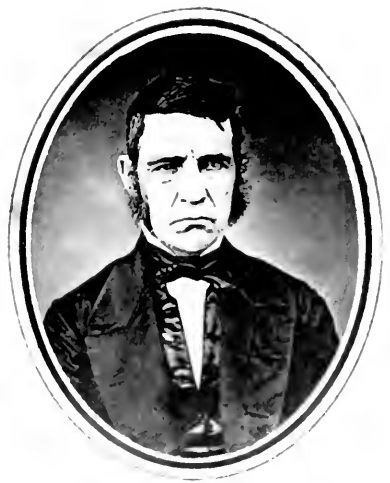
COL. H. D. LOOK.



JOSEPH LOOK.



DR. SEWELL RICHARDSON.



CAPT. ER. BALCH.



Look, was also a native of Conway, Mass., where he was born April 22, 1818. During the principal part of his life he was in business with his brothers, as has been stated, but was associated for the greater length of time with Col. Look. He was married to Elvira T. Risley, of Gill, Mass. Their two sons, George H. and William A., are both residents of Leominster. During his life here Mr. Look was an active worker in the Orthodox Congregational Church, of which he was a valued member, his genial qualities also making his influence felt in the community. He died June 6, 1871.

DR. SEWALL RICHARDSON, the youngest of ten children of Lieut. Luke Richardson, was born in the house called "The Lealand," more recently "The Old Abbey," from its fancied resemblance to that in a story, Aug. 15, 1734, married 1758 Damaris Carter. They lived and died on what is known as the "Marsh Farm," on the road to Fitchburg. Their youngest son Sewall was born July 30, 1784, married first April 9, 1815, Abigail Kendall, born June 4, 1788, only daughter of John Kendall, Sr., of Leominster, whose native place was Woburn. Her mother was Rebecca Hills of Leominster. She, Abigail, died Sept. 18, 1853, aged 35. Second, April 25, 1831, Mary Cutler, born Feb. 22, 1801, daughter of Jacob Cutler, of Wendall, Mass., a very estimable lady. She died May 10, 1842. Dr. Sewall Richardson lived in his native Leominster. He was very active in his habits, was fond of the dance and took a lively interest in military matters. He was genial in his nature, of a hopeful temperament, never looking on the dark side, remarkably cheerful and trustful in his feelings. An ardent lover of nature, he enjoyed almost, if not quite perfect, health till the day previous to his death, which was caused by falling down stairs, rendering him unconscious for twenty four hours. He died Jan. 20, 1867.



His children by his first wife Abigail were : Clarissa Kendall, born Aug. 27, 1816, who married Charles H. Colburn ; Abigail Rebecca, born July 2, 1820, who married, first, Daniel Rundlett Haines, born in Greenland, N. H., 1821, and for many years in the piano-forte business in Leominster and a prominent citizen. Her second marriage was with Col. Ivers Phillips, Jan. 19, 1869, who was born in Ashburnham, Mass., July 28, 1805. Col. Phillips was for many years connected with large manufacturing and other business interests in Fitchburg, as well as important railroad interests in Worcester county and in the West. In 1873 he removed to Colorado, and after spending the greater part of nine years in travel, he built a substantial residence of the Rocky Mt. sandstone in Boulder, and settled down probably for the remainder of his life.

CAPT. ER. BALCH came to Leominster at the age of 18, and for a short time was engaged in the comb business with Abel Bowers. He afterwards took the old tavern which stood on the corner of West and Exchange streets, remaining for some time, when he moved to the centre of the town and kept hotel there for over thirty years. The rest of his days were spent on the Dr. Pierce place where he died in 1853. Capt. Balch was quite a politician, being an ardent Whig, while that party was in the ascendancy. When the first bank in Fitchburg was started, considerable sums of their money were entrusted to him to be put in circulation in Leominster. He received his title of captain as the commanding officer of the Old North company, at the time when there were two companies in town.

GEORGE A. BISHOP was born at North Orange, Sept. 23, 1836. He was for many years in the furniture manufacturing business in Leominster—first, in the firm of Blodgett & Bishop, then Bishop & Hogan. He also conducted a retail furniture store under the firm name of G. A. Bishop & Co. Mr. Bishop

was, during his life in Leominster, a prominent citizen and an active member of the Central Baptist church.

He enlisted in November, 1862, in Co. C, 53rd Regiment, returning at the expiration of his term of service to Leominster. He died Dec. 4, 1878.

The following are among the number now living, who are not actively engaged in business, but have in various ways contributed to the general prosperity of the community in their several callings :

ISAAC COWDREY was born in Lunenburg March 26, 1811. Removing to Leominster at the age of 19, he learned the carpenter's trade of Samuel Heywood. After working three years for Joseph Haskell and a year in Worcester, he started as a contractor and builder in Leominster in 1836, continuing in the business for a quarter of a century. In 1844 he purchased the land between Wood's Block and Mechanic street, including Luke Wilder's old blacksmith's shop on Monoosnock brook, on the site of which he built a carpenter's shop for his own use, making additions from time to time, and renting to other parties. His residence for several years was on the corner west of the shop. It overlooked the tract of land on which the railroad and depot were afterwards located, it then being a cow pasture with a pair of bars, where the Water street crossing now is.

In 1845 he built the depot at North Leominster, and the two bridges below, on the Fitchburg railroad, and at the invitation of Alvah Crocker, rode into Fitchburg on the first locomotive that went over that road.

From 1846 to '50 Mr. Cowdrey was associated with Joseph Haskell, doing a business of \$40,000 in Clinton alone, building the Lancaster Town Hall, as well as several houses in Leominster, and including in their business the purchase of wood lots and getting out of lumber for building.

In the winter of 1849 they built all the depots, freight houses and bridges on the Worcester and Fitchburg railroad between Fitchburg and Sterling Junction.

Upon the dissolution of the co-partnership in 1850 Mr. Haskell located on the stream below Mr. Crowdrey, remaining in business alone. About this time, however, he became interested with J. C. Lane and Carter Lamb, in building a reservoir at the head of Monoosnock brook, near the Fitchburg line, for improving the water power below, and soon after, in company with Carter & Patch, he built the dam at the E. M. Rockwell mill; also a shop which was used by James H. Carter for comb manufacturing and by J. C. Lane for piano making.

To show the changes that have since taken place in the wood working industries of the town, it may be of interest to state in this connection that in Mr. Cowdrey's shop was run the first Daniels' planer as well as the first cylinder planer ever operated in Leominster, and that when Mr. Lane began the manufacture of piano cases in 1845, his only machinery was a circular saw. For seven years Mr. Cowdrey carried on business with Joseph G. Tenney. The partnership dissolved in 1861, when Mr. Cowdrey retired permanently from business, disposing of his shop and privilege to Tilton & Look.

In all these years Mr. Cowdrey has been a thorough going temperance man, and in the stirring times of the anti-slavery movement a prominent worker. He was a member of the Leominster Anti-Slavery Society, and also of the Anti-Man Hunting League. He has been a member of the First Congregational Society (Unitarian) for half a century, and of which he is a deacon. He was for several years on the Board of Overseers of the Poor, and served the town on various building committees at different times.

He has been twice married, first, in the spring of 1836, to



ISAAC COWDREY.



S. S. CROCKER.



F. A. JOHNSON.



F. A. JOHNSON.



Catherine Whitman of Westminster. Their only daughter married George H. Carter of Leominster, and they now live in Springfield, Mass. Second, in June, 1878, to Serena N. Fisk, of North Leominster. For the past four years their home has been in North Leominster.

JOHN DICKEY was born in Londonderry, N. H., Feb. 13, 1824. He attended school at Pinkerton, Derry, N. H., for several years after engaging in farming and lumbering, and in the winters school teaching. During those years he was interested in town affairs, holding the office of Town Clerk for a quarter of a century, and serving on the Board of Selectmen for four years. He represented his town in the Legislature in 1860-61, and in 1876 was a member of the convention for revising the constitution of the State. He has been for some time interested in collecting information for a genealogy of the original settlers of Derry, the Dickey family.

S. S. CROCKER was born Oct. 30, 1813, in North Leominster. He was the seventh son of Samuel Crocker, and a brother of Alvah Crocker. He began work in the paper mill at 10 years of age, and at 16 entered the employ of his brother Alvah in West Fitchburg. Here he remained for two years, after which he learned the carpenter trade of Justin Stearns and engaged in millwright work for a time. He purchased in 1839 the water power of what is now the Crocker, Burbank & Co's upper mill. (This mill was burned and afterwards rebuilt by Mr. Crocker.) In 1853 he sold his mill to Benjamin Snow, Jr., and moved to Lawrence, Mass., and built the first paper mill in that place. After twelve years he returned to his native town, and in 1865 built the Crocker Woolen Mill, the history of which is given in the manufacturing chapter. Upon giving up the woolen business, he became associated with his eldest son Daniel, in the Crocker Manufacturing Co. of Holyoke, in the paper business,

buying up the majority of the stock, so that it is now largely owned in the family. Mr. Crocker is president of the company. Daniel Crocker acted as clerk and Treasurer until his death in Feb. 1887, since which time Clifton Alvah, the youngest son, has filled that position. His other surviving son, Frederick William, enlisted with his brother in the famous Sixth Massachusetts Regiment, accompanying his regiment through Baltimore and to the seat of war. He had been but six months in the service when he received an appointment to the naval school at Newport, R. I., where it had been removed from Annapolis temporarily. After the close of the war the school was again located in Annapolis, where he finished his studies. He has worked his way up through the different grades of the naval service, until he is now Lieutenant-Commander. He has visited nearly every country of the habitable globe, and is now preparing to ship from San Francisco on the U. S. Ship Mohegan for Japan or China, the vessel not having received full orders.

Mr. Crocker was one of the constituent members of the Baptist Church in Fitchburg, a deacon of the First Baptist Church in Lawrence, afterward of the Second Baptist Church in that place. He also held the same office in the Central Baptist church in Leominster. Dea. Crocker has been a constant attendant at Sunday school for seventy years, serving either as superintendent or teacher most of that time.

PORTER PIPER was born in Royalston in April 2nd, 1810, and lived on a farm in that town until he was seventeen years of age, when he went to Templeton to work in a woolen mill; afterward to Fitchburg to work at the same business, remaining in each place about three years.

Mr. Piper then opened a variety store, remaining in that business about ten years, after which he bought one-quarter in-

terest in the Fitchburg Woolen Mill, and sold out to William H. Vose in 1848.

In 1840 Mr. Piper was chosen director in the Fitchburg Bank, and held that position until 1870, and was also trustee in the Savings Bank quite a number of years. In 1850 he came to Leominster and was in company with Gardner & Augustus Morse in the comb business for a short time. In 1852 was chosen treasurer of Leominster and re-chosen annually until 1866. His business in Leominster has been varied, farming in a small way and various other occupations.

FREDERICK W. HUDSON was born in Leominster, Nov. 4, 1818, where he has been most of his life engaged in business. He was for some time in the employ of Lockey & Howland, in the manufacture of apple parers, afterwards engaging in the business alone, and with his son, Charles E., until 1881, when he retired permanently from business.

E. J. MARSH was born in Cabot, Vt., March 21, 1811. At the age of 15 he went to Randolph, Vt., and boarded with Wm. Nutting, Esq., doing chores for his board and tuition. He taught district schools in his own and other towns, and in 1833 graduated at Middlebury College. He taught the Academy at Jericho, Vt., the two succeeding years, and then entered the Seminary at Andover, Mass., but was soon compelled to leave on account of poor health. In the fall of 1836 he took charge of the High School at Concord, Mass., for one year. He also taught the Academy at Thetford, Vt. He then taught five years at Milton, Mass., two years at Dorchester and eight years in Groton Lawrence Academy, but his health again failing, he gave up teaching and moved to Leominster in 1855, where some five years later he purchased a farm on the road to Fitchburg, a mile from the Centre, where he now lives.

As to his success as a teacher, it is only necessary to state



that Mr. Marsh fitted a hundred students for college, and that not one failed to be admitted without "conditions."

STEPHEN AUSTIN MILLER, son of Joseph and Zipporah (Ellis) Miller, was born in Ashburnham July 1st, 1819, removed to Leominster April, 1854, and in company with Oliver G. Caldwell, commenced the manufacture of tubs and pails, at the place on Lancaster street, now known as the fork factory. In the spring of 1860 their shop was burned, and they removed their business to Water street; in 1870 they were burned out there; they rebuilt and started again.

The firm was known as Caldwell & Miller, for about twenty years, when Mr. Caldwell was succeeded by his son-in-law J. W. H. Lawrence, and the firm became Miller & Lawrence. Their shop was burned July 1st, 1887; they built up, and started business once more, but on account of ill health Mr. Miller did not wish to continue it, and the business was closed up in the spring of 1888, and the shop rented to the Leominster Rattan Company. Mr. Miller served on the Board of Selectmen in 1867-68-69—the last year as chairman.

ALANSON RICHARDSON is a native of Orange, born March 26, 1820. When he was 4 years of age his parents moved to Athol, and at the age of 17 he came to Leominster, where he worked on the farm with his father and taught school six winters. He learned the comb-maker's trade of A. B. Gibson. He was one of the original members of the firm of B. F. Blodgett & Co., and was afterwards engaged with his son Arthur A., in the manufacture of horn buttons. Mr. Richardson has served the town as a member of the School Committee. He was two years on the Board of Overseers of the Poor, nearly twenty years on the Board of Assessors, which office he now holds, for six years on the Board of Selectmen, and in 1855 represented the town in the Legislature.



STEPHEN J. WELLS



WILLIAM B. WHITNEY was born Aug. 23, 1841, in Westminster, Mass. He came to Leominster in 1853 and attended school two years. He was then employed in Mr. J. H. Lockey's piano shop until the hard times of 1857. He then entered the employ of F. W. & F. A. Whitney, in the children's carriage business, where he remained until the breaking out of the war, when he enlisted as a private in Co. A, 15th Mass. Vols.; was taken prisoner at Ball's Bluff, Oct. 21, 1861, and after being held a prisoner in Richmond about five months, was exchanged and returned to his regiment at the front; was again taken prisoner on the last day of McClellan's retreat from Richmond. He was sent to Bell Island and held prisoner one month; was then exchanged, sent north and discharged for disability. A few months later he re-enlisted in the Mass. Heavy Artillery, and served until the close of the war. Returning to Leominster, he again entered the employ of F. W. & F. A. Whitney. When the Whitney Carriage Company was formed, he became a stockholder, and acted as superintendent of an important department of the business until July 1st, 1886, when he was obliged to retire on account of impaired health.

SUMNER M. FROST was born in Orange, Mass., Jan. 28, 1841. His family moved to Phillipston, Mass., when he was two years old. In 1858 he came to Leominster and entered the employ of F. W. & F. A. Whitney, remaining for a few months. Afterwards engaged in different kinds of employment until the breaking out of the war, when he enlisted in the 15th Mass. regiment. He was captured at the battle of Ball's Bluff, was a prisoner at Libby and Salisbury for a little over seven months, when he was paroled and discharged for disability. Later on was drafted and exempted, and in 1864 re-enlisted this time in the 4th Heavy Artillery, and served until the close of hostilities. Returning to Leominster, he, in 1865, entered the

employ of F. A. Whitney, and continued until he became a member of the F. A. Whitney Carriage Co., from which he retired in 1885.

FRANCIS H. SHAW was born in the town of West Springfield, Mass., March 30, 1833, where he resided until he was 9 years old, when he removed to Blandford, Mass. At the age of 16, he was apprenticed to Silas Cook, of Springfield, Mass., for a term of three years, to learn the carpenter's trade. Having completed his apprenticeship, he went to Montague, Mass., where, for four years, he was engaged in veneering piano-forte cases. He next moved to Leominster, and entered the employ of J. C. Lane on piano-forte case work. The "hard times" of 1857 making business in that line very dull, he moved West and located in Mendota, Ill., where he engaged in the manufacture and sale of furniture.

On August 26, 1851 he enlisted for three years in the U. S. volunteer infantry, and was assigned to the 55th Illinois regiment, with the rank of first lieutenant, and was soon promoted to the rank of captain.

In 1866 he returned to Leominster, and has since then been engaged in piano-forte work and in the manufacture of children's carriages, retiring from the F. A. Whitney Carriage company July 1, 1888.

J. W. H. LAWRENCE is a native of Concord, Mass., where he was born Sept. 14, 1837. At the age of 18 years he went to Milford, Mass., and served three years at the carpenter's trade. He returned to Concord in 1861, but in 1865 removed to Leominster and entered the employ of Blodgett & Bishop, working at the cabinet business for them and other parties until 1874, when, upon the retirement of Mr. Caldwell, he formed a co-partnership with Mr. S. A. Miller in the manufacture of



WM. B. WHITNEY.



SUMNER M. FROST.



FRANCIS H. SHAW



W. H. LAWRENCE.



wooden ware. The business was discontinued in the spring of 1888, the firm still owning the property.

CLARENCE KENNEY is the youngest son of Timothy P. and Louisa C., and brother of Clesson Kenney, of the firm of Tenney & Kenney. He was born in Leominster March 15th, 1842. For several years he was engaged with Look & Damon in the manufacture of horn goods. Later, he was for some years a member of the firm of Foster Bros. & Kenney, grocers, etc. Mr. Kenney is gifted with superior musical talent, and is esteemed as one of the best bassos in this region. He was for many years the center of a musical circle in Leominster; and for eighteen years has held the position of chorister in the Orthodox Congregational Church. In 1868 he married Lizzie C., only child of William M. and Louisa S. Howland, of Leominster, by whom he has one son, William Howland, a youth of 17, who fills very acceptably the position of leading basso in the Baptist Church.

WILLIAM BOOTH was born in Royton, Old England, Aug. 25, 1829. He came to America in the ship *Soldan*, with his father and family, landing in Boston July 28, 1848, after a six weeks passage. He first obtained employment in the cotton mills of Millbury and Northboro, Mass., afterwards serving three years at the comb makers' trade with Samuel Gibson, of Northboro.

Coming to Leominster, he worked at the same business for Gardner Morse until 1861. He then entered the employ of the India Rubber Comb Co. at College Point, L. I., remaining fifteen years. He spent a year in experimenting for the Celluloid Brush Co., in Leominster, of which company he was afterwards Superintendent for seven years, both in Leominster and Newark, New Jersey, after which he was with the Merchants Mfg. Co., also of Newark, as manager, and after a year bought



them out, the firm then being Wm. Booth & Co.

Since 1884, Mr. Booth has manufactured Celluloid goods in Leominster, together with A. G. Morse and alone, and was for a year and a half with J. Wm. Wetherbee in the eye-glass business.

During the past year he has been engaged with Professor Carmichael of Boston experimenting on wood fibre as a substitute for Celluloid, with such success that the Duralite Manufacturing Company has just been formed with a paid up capital of \$25,000 for the manufacture of these goods in Leominster. The officers of the Company are : John E. Toulmin, Prest.; F. C. Bryant, Treas.; J. C. Smith, Sec.; J. H. Emery, General Manager ; Henry Carmichael, chemist ; Wm. Footh, Supt.

Mr. Booth is a thorough mechanic and the inventor of numerous valuable machinery and process patents, in connection with the different kinds of business in which he has been engaged.

August 16, 1854, he was married to Elvira, daughter of Arnold, and sister of Gardner and Augustus Morse. Their son, Austin W., is also a resident of Leominster.

The following are well known Leominster men who are either engaged in business or reside elsewhere.

REV. ELI FAY, D. D., now a resident and prominent citizen of Los Angeles, California, is remembered with pleasing recollections as the pastor of the Unitarian parish more than a quarter of a century ago. As may be inferred from a previous chapter, Mr. Fay was one of the most patriotic men that lived in Leominster during the war. From Leominster he removed to Newton and then went to Europe, where he was settled over a parish. Before leaving, he placed the small sum of \$700 saved from his yearly salary, with Mr. Tyler, brother-in-law of N.

Harwood, who invested it in Calumet and Hecla mining stock. This stock accumulated for him \$23,000 when it was sold.

Returning to this country about the time the land boom was going on in Kansas City, he invested his money in land within the city limits, and later on withdrew his largely increased capital and invested it in California. This also proved a fortunate venture, and so far as this world's goods are concerned, the good wishes of Leominster people for their former townsman have been more than realized. His recent proposition to give to the Unitarian denomination \$750,000 towards establishing a female seminary in Massachusetts shows that his zeal for noble work has not abated, and that he holds the same warm attachment for the Old Bay State and her institutions as of old.

NATHANIEL GOODWIN WOOD, son of Merritt and grandson of Nathaniel Goodwin Wood, was born in Leominster, Dec. 5, 1824. He went early into the jewelry business, first with Moses Wood for a time; then engaged with Wm. P. McKay & Co., of Boston, to finish his trade and learn the general business; he remained with them about three years, after which he went to Saco, Me., establishing first a jewelry store on Factory Island, so called, and after about eighteen months established another store in Biddeford, Me., and continued the two for about 18 months.

In 1848 he removed to Boston, where he has been eminently successful in his business, and is a man of wealth and influence. Although not a resident of Leominster, he is a large real estate owner there, the large brick business block which bears his name being a prominent landmark in the business center.

Mr. Wood's father was for many years a well-known and respected citizen of this town, where he died Nov. 3, 1873. Mrs. Martha L. Holt, the only surviving daughter, resides in Leominster.

T. B. GRIMES was born in Hubbardston, Mass., April 22, 1844. Came to Leominster in May, 1869, and after working for Wilder & Hills two years and seven months, started in the dry goods business for himself in 1871, in Allen's new block, continuing until July, 1884, when he removed to East Boston, where he is engaged in the same kind of business.

J. F. CHAFFIN is a native of Oxford, Maine. He removed to Leominster in 1859, remaining until the breaking out of the war, when he enlisted Oct., 1861, in the 23rd Mass. regiment as a musician. When the regimental bands were disbanded by act of congress, he was made forage master of the 3rd division, 3rd army corps, then stationed at the corps headquarters of Gen. Sickles. He afterward re-enlisted in the band organized by P. S. Gilmore for service in the Gulf States.

He was mustered out of the service at New Orleans in Aug., 1865, returned to Leominster, where he remained until 1878, working at the piano and cabinet business, and also taught singing school evenings. He was a charter member of Post 53, G. A. R., and its first adjutant.

Since 1878 Mr. Chaffin has resided in Fitchburg, and is proprietor of a large music store in that city.

FRANK H. POPE, of Boston "Globe" editorial staff, born at Sandwich, Mass., March 7, 1854. Was a student at the Sandwich Academy, and at Dean Academy, Franklin, Mass. Moved to Marlboro in July, 1872, and was connected with the furniture trade until 1877, and from that time until 1881 was connected with the stage and platform, with the latter as a dramatic reader and delineator. Was for three seasons the "leading man" of "Your Versatile Guests," which was managed by the New York Literary Bureau, and played West and South. During the summer seasons he did reportorial work for the Marlborough Times, edited the Northboro Farmer, and did special



LIEUT. F. W. CROCKER



CLIFTON A. CROCKER



HERBERT C. BURDETT.



FRANK N. LOOK.



T. B. GRIMES.



JOEL G. TYLER



REV. ALBERT H. WHEELOCK.



R. D. P. RICHARDSON



A. RICHARDSON.



work for the Boston papers. From October, 1877, Mr. Pope made Northboro his home, although away from the town most of the time. July 12, 1881, he became an attache of the Boston Globe, with which paper he is yet connected. In August, 1882, the subject of this sketch moved to Leominster.

B. MARSHALL PITTS, son of Hiram W. and Mary A. Pitts, since 1882 proprietor of Pitts' Mill in Fitchburg, and engaged in the manufacture of cotton and carpet warps. Reference is made to Mr. Pitts in the sketch of his father.

WILBUR B. TENNEY, son of Joseph G. Tenney, was for a little over nine years connected with the First National Bank of Leominster as bookkeeper and teller. He went to Fitchburg in 1881 to take the position of cashier in the Rollstone National Bank, is also a director in this bank, a trustee of Jerusalem Commandery Knight Templars and treasurer of the Fitchburg Home for Old Ladies.

JOEL G. TYLER, son of J. J. Tyler, is a native of Leominster. He was a bookkeeper for the Arlington Piano Co., Kendall, Lockey & Co., and others in Leominster, and for C. M. Converse in Fitchburg. In 1882 he took the position of bookkeeper in the Safety Fund National Bank, and has been teller in that institution since May, 1888.

FRANCIS H. COLBURN, son of Jonas Colburn, now engaged in the carpet, crockery and furnishing goods business in the firm of L. Sprague & Co., Fitchburg.

LOREN SEARS, for some four years in the dry goods business in Leominster, a dealer in wall paper in Fitchburg.

JAMES C. BROOKS, president and manager of the Oconto Lumber Co., Oconto, Wisconsin, with an office in Chicago, is a son of Sarah Carter, of Leominster.

HENRY JACKSON, for twenty-one years town and city clerk, and present city auditor of Fitchburg.

GEO. ROBBINS, who, since 1854, has been engaged in the gas fitting and plumbing business, also in Fitchburg, and was its seventh mayor.

GEO. REED, who was for seven years chief of the Fitchburg Fire department.

The late WILLIAM H. VOSE, for many years a prominent woolen manufacturer in Fitchburg, and the fifth mayor of that city, was also a native of Leominster.













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